

ECIS 2018 TRACK PROPOSAL FORM

“BEYOND DIGITIZATION - FACETS OF SOCIO-TECHNICAL CHANGE”, 23RD -28TH, JUNE, 2018, IN UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH, UK, FOR THE 26TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Title of the Track

Materiality of IT and Ubiquitous Computing

Short Description of the Proposed Track

Since the beginning of this century, the Information Systems (IS) field has turned to the study of ubiquity and materiality of IT. Materiality of IT refers to its physical and/or digital properties and forms that endure across space and time. Ubiquitous computing (UC) is characterized by materiality that enables physical and social mobility of computing as witnessed in trends such as smart cities, smart devices, and the internet of things. As computing has become ubiquitous and pervasive, questions have arisen as to how its material properties shape and are shaped by individuals, organizations and society.

These questions have arisen because strong relations can be assumed between ubiquity and materiality of IT in practice. There are substantial differences between materiality of UC and other computing types that give rise to new designs, questions, methods, approaches, and analytical techniques. However, these issues are currently not well understood in IS research. The aim of this track is to foster and promote research on the materiality of IT and ubiquitous computing by offering new perspectives and by providing deeper, richer, and more nuanced insights. These are intended to enrich knowledge and enable IS practitioners to deploy and use IT resources more effectively.

The track is open to all types of contributions including conceptual, theoretical, and empirical papers (completed research and research-in-progress, positive or interpretive, quantitative or qualitative) studying issues on materiality and ubiquity of IT in different contexts, at different levels of analysis, and from different theoretical and stakeholder perspectives. We particularly welcome papers that address the conference theme “Information Systems for a smart, sustainable and inclusive world” by focusing on IT materiality and ubiquity challenges at the intersection between technological, personal, organizational, national, cultural, social, and other boundaries. Topics include but are not limited to the following:

- Theory of materiality in UC
- UC and social change
- Material agency in UC
- UC and mobile business
- Business impact of materiality of UC
- Technology control and UC
- Social media and UC
- Mobile ecosystems in UC
- Materiality and ontological issues in UC
- Materiality in smart cities
- Internet of things in UC
- Platform innovation and UC
- The challenge of distributed materiality in UC
- The challenge of individual to infrastructure studies in UC

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Publishing Opportunities in Leading Journals

Currently, there is a return to the material (with its related concepts such as sociomaterial, socio-technical systems, material agency, and materiality) in the IS field. This has generated extensive discussion of its essence and implications in leading conferences and journals. For instance, there have been recent (2010 onwards) calls for papers on the subject in leading journals such as *MIS Quarterly*, *European Journal of Information Systems*, and *Organization Studies*. Besides, the issue of ubiquitous computing (with its related concepts such as mobile computing and mobile information systems) has also attracted special issues in *European Journal of Information Systems* (2006 and 2012).

Against this backdrop, papers in this track will, hopefully, begin to make novel empirical and theoretical contributions that will lead to refinement and extension of existing contributions. The refinements and extensions through UC and other sub-domains will enhance the development of theoretical and practical ideas on materiality of IT in IS. Because materiality is currently a leading research issue in the field, the refinements and extensions will continue to interest editors of leading journals to publish research on materiality and UC.

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	Short Biography	Dr. Ben Eaton is a Senior Lecturer in Information Systems at Surrey Business School. Before joining Surrey he held academic positions in information systems departments at Copenhagen Business School and the University of Oslo. Previous to this Ben worked in the telecoms industry for 15 years where his focus was on service innovation. His research interests therefore concern innovation on and within digital platforms and digital infrastructures. His work has been published in journals including <i>MIS Quarterly</i> , <i>MISQ Executive</i> and <i>The Journal of Strategic Information Systems</i> . Ben holds a PhD in Information Systems from the LSE, and his thesis concerning Apple's model of platform innovation won the prestigious ACM SIGMIS doctoral dissertation competition in 2013. Organisations that he has advised include Thomson Reuters, Telenor, the BBC, Orange, Thales and BT.

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