

Title of the Track

Openness and IT

Short Description of the Proposed Track

This ECIS is focused on socio-technical change enabled by information systems (IS). Over the past 15 years, openness enabled by information technology (IT) have led to substantial socio-technical changes, for example in the way products are developed (including open source software, open hardware and open content) and work is performed (including commons-based peer production, crowdsourcing and sharing economy models). Openness has received increased interest from information systems (IS) researchers. Such interest on the topic can be seen in many dedicated conferences, conference tracks, journal special issues, and workshops as well as in the recent formation of an AIS Special Interest Group on Open Research and Practice (AIS SIGOPEN).

We understand IT-enabled “openness” broadly in terms of the transparency of action; the accessibility of knowledge, technology and other resources; the inclusiveness of participation; the permeability of organizational structures; and the “democratization” of domains. Openness manifests through various legal, economic, organizational, social and technological systems. Examples of socio-technical changes through such openness include:

- Crowdsourcing, crowdfunding, crowdequity, volunteer computing and microwork all mitigate the impact of scarce and distributed resources.
- The peer production of complex knowledge goods (e.g., open source software and open content) extend human creative, productive and innovative capability to transform local inputs into global outputs.
- Open platforms for knowledge creation and sharing, and the co-creation of products and services radically changes organizational business models and approaches to innovation and value creation.
- Crowdsourced problem solving and information processing systems help us to address the governance and quality challenges of massive content repositories.
- Open systems enable greater individual engagement in scientific research, education, response to crisis and social change.
- Platforms for the sharing economy and collaborative consumption create efficient sharing of resources, for the benefit of the user collective.

The variety and complexity of IT-enabled open phenomena present a wide range of intellectual challenges. Thus, we invite applied, empirical and theoretical research papers (full papers and research in progress papers) that will significantly contribute to our scholarly understanding of openness and IT. We are interested in manifestations and antecedents of IT-enabled openness, and, most critically, in the impacts of openness on individuals, organizations, societies and technology. We welcome and encourage submissions from researchers using diverse epistemological and methodological approaches.

Topics of interest to the track include but are not limited to:

- Open business and open economic systems (e.g., open business models, crowdfunding/equity, Blockchain-based systems, sharing economy models, etc.)
- Open innovation strategies (e.g., crowdsourcing, innovation contests, co-creation, etc.)
- Open computing platforms (e.g., open APIs, open data, developer ecosystems, etc.)
- Open production methods (e.g., open source software, open hardware development, microwork, etc.)
- Open science, education and scholarship (e.g., citizen science, open access publishing, open data sets, open educational resources, etc.)
- Open societies and cultures (e.g., open IT for developing regions, digital democracies, hacker/maker and other participatory sub-cultures, social media and crisis response, etc.)
- Openness as an abstract concept (e.g., frameworks and theories of openness) and research object (e.g. innovative methodological approaches).

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Publishing Opportunities in Leading Journals

We are currently in the process of publishing a special issue on "Openness and IT" based on this track (at the Journal of Information Technology). We intend to organize another special issue on this level, specifically inviting best papers from this track.

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ECIS 2018 TRACK 35

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

	Short Biography	Rob Gleasure is a Lecturer in Business Information Systems at University College Cork, Ireland. He is also Co-Director of the MSc in Electronic Business for Cork University Business School and Associate Faculty for the Irish Management Institute. He received his PhD from University College Cork in 2013 and his research interests focus on the design of innovative IT systems and the less-conscious aspects of online crowd behaviour (particularly crowdfunding). Rob's work has been published in a selection of journals that includes JAIS, ISJ, JSIS, JIT, and I&O. He is Associate Editor for the Journal of Decision Systems and a Founding Member of the AIS SIGOPEN.
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	Short Biography	Daniel Schlagwein is a Senior Lecturer at the UNSW Business School in Sydney. His research interest is on crowdsourcing and openness. Daniel's research has been published at JAIS, JIT, ISJ and JSIS among other outlets. His editorial experience includes being co-editor of special issues in Electronic Markets and JIT, co-chair for the IFIP 8.2 OASIS 2013 conference, and track co-chair for the track on Openness and IT at ECIS 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. He is a Founding Member of the AIS SIGOPEN. He serves as an Associate Editor for the ISJ. He was awarded the AIS Early Career Award in 2016.
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	Short Biography	Lorraine Morgan is a Lecturer in the School of Business, National University of Ireland. Her research on open source software, open innovation, crowdsourcing, open business models and business value of cloud computing has been published in journals such as JSIS, ISJ, EJIS and Database for Advances in Information Systems, among other outlets. She served as guest editor for the special issue on open innovation at JAIS, the current special issue on openness and IT at JIT, and as co-chair of the Openness and IT track at ECIS 2014, 2015 and 2017. Lorraine is a Founding Member of the AIS SIGOPEN.

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