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Editorial Notes

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Editorial Notes

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This editorial announces a new special issue calling for research on the interplay between digital and social networks. Today, both digital and social networks play a crucial role in the structure and conduct of economic activity. Therefore, *ISR* seeks to foster research on this important topic. We also note with sadness the passing of a valued member of the information systems community, a great colleague, and a former member of the editorial board of the journal. Finally, a new senior editor is introduced.

Key words: digital networks; social networks; special issue; senior editors

Special Issues

The submission deadline for the first special issue of *Information Systems Research* since I became the Editor-in-Chief has passed. As readers will recall, my editorial goal has been to commit the journal to one special issue each year. Recently, we completed the process of evaluating submissions for the second special issue and received about five proposals. After the initial evaluation and discussion with the senior editors that was guided by Bob Zmud (Senior Editor for Special Issues), I am pleased to announce the second special issue. The topic of this special issue is “The Interplay Between Digital and Social Networks,” and the guest editors for this issue will be Ritu Agarwal (University of Maryland), Anil K. Gupta (University of Maryland), and Robert Kraut (Carnegie Mellon University).

This special issue once again fulfills my vision that the journal should promote interdisciplinary research on emerging and important phenomena of interest to the information systems community. In recent years, considerable research attention has been devoted to the impact of *digital networks* on various types of economic activity, e.g., impact of information technology on firm boundaries, dynamics of electronic markets, and the governance of IT-enabled interorganizational and multilateral relationships. Simultaneously, research in the field of strategy and organization theory has increasingly focused on the *social embeddedness* of economic activity; for example, over the last decade, we have come to know a lot more about the role that social ties play in the production of trust and

in reducing both search and transfer costs in the diffusion of knowledge across individuals and firms. In other words, the structure and conduct of economic activity is increasingly built and executed on digital and social networks.

Yet research on the interplay between digital and social networks remains in its infancy. Digital networks are designed by and used by people, individually or collectively. Thus, digital interaction among individuals and organizations is almost always embedded in, influenced by, and in turn influences a social network. This interplay has significant consequences for the economic, behavioral, social, institutional, and technical aspects of information systems and should attract a wide range of novel and meaningful research. The primary goal of this special issue is to foster research on this interplay between digital and social networks.

A full version of the announcement for the special issue appears at the end of this issue. All enquiries about the special issue should be directed to the editors of the special issue, particularly to Ritu Agarwal.

In Memoriam: Gerry DeSanctis

The information systems community recently lost Gerry DeSanctis (Duke University) at a very young age. She was my dissertation advisor, mentor, and very close friend. Her professional accomplishments are well known. Her research on group support systems and the adaptive structuration theory of technology impacts has made important contributions and

been extremely influential in guiding the work of others. More importantly, she was mentor to a whole generation of information systems scholars, including not only her own doctoral students, but also many others who sought her advice on research, writing, publishing, and managing their careers. She had been a member of the editorial boards of all the leading information systems journals, including *Information Systems Research*. During the past few years, she continually reminded me about how important it is for journals to expand publication space and publication opportunities and for editors to be “nurturing” and developmental! Her recent article (DeSanctis 2003) emphasized the strong relationship between information systems journals and the information systems community, and the role of the journals in reflecting and promoting the intellectual and professional interests of the community. She will be missed. I am confident that there are bigger problems up there, where her calm, guiding hand was needed!

New Senior Editor

Beginning mid-October, Soon Ang will be joining the board as a senior editor. She is the T. K. Goh Endowed Chair and Professor in Management and IT, and Head of the Division of Strategy, Management and Organization at the Nanyang Business School, Nanyang

Technological University, Singapore. She is also the Executive Director for the Center for Cultural Intelligence (CCI) and serves on the advisory board of the Ministry of Defense SAFTI Leadership Development Center. A graduate of the University of Minnesota, her research includes IT outsourcing, managing IT professionals, and international organizational behavior. Her papers have appeared in *Information Systems Research*, *Management Science*, *MIS Quarterly*, *Organization Science*, and the *Academy of Management Journal*. She has vast editorial experience at numerous journals and has served recently as an associate editor for *Information Systems Research*. I believe that she will add to the editorial breadth and expertise of the journal, and I welcome her to the board.

The addition of another senior editor is in response to the increased number of submissions to the journal. We have now received about 240 submissions (including a special issue) and anticipate that the journal will receive close to 300 submissions this year. This bodes well for the pipeline and for my desire to expand the publication opportunities in *Information Systems Research*.

Reference

- DeSanctis, G. 2003. The social life of information systems research. *J. Assoc. Inform. Systems* 4(7) 360–376.