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Opportunities and Challenges for IS Research in Latin America

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Language: Spanish

Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes

The research productivity on Information Systems (IS) has steadily evolved in Latin America in the last ten years. A track of IS in Latin America has been hosted by AMCIS in the last five years, with a growing number of contributions. Unfortunately, the research productivity in this area of the world is smaller than the research productivity in other regions. The purpose of this panel is to contribute to the development of an IS research community in Latin America and to increase the number and quality of research contributions from it.

The Americas Conference in Information Systems has been a strong advocate for the development of an IS research community in this region. In addition to hosting the IS in Latin America track, this conference started to accept contributions in Spanish in AMCIS 2005, and is hosting AMCIS 2006 in Mexico. These actions and the constitution of a Latin America chapter (LACAIS) of the Association for Information Systems have resulted in a sizeable increase of research contributions from the region. The panel will be a forum for this growing community, where the participants will discuss IS research opportunities, research methods in IS, and strategies to manage the research process.

There are countless research opportunities in this region. Experiences in e-government, e-commerce, and virtual communities among others that are unique not only in Latin America but in the world have not been studied or reported. Panel participants will review research trends in the IS field, to discover research opportunities and challenges. The panel gives ideas on areas of research, presents and compares quantitative and qualitative research methods used in IS, and discusses several conceptual IS theories that are particularly relevant. With no IS journals in Latin America or regular conferences in the IS field, the area's researchers have a limited exposure to research strategies and methods used in the field. The panel addresses how to overcome these limitations. Finally, it will also present effective practices for doing research. Since data collection and access to data are strong limitations to achieving research in the IS field, the panelists will explain their strategies to surpass these challenges in the Latin American context. The panelists will also share experiences with research projects start to finish and discuss writing up results. The panel will encourage discussion and active participation by those attending it.

Background of Panelists

This panel will be hosted by the Spanish Track Chairs. As they have organized the Latin American track for several years, they will take advantage of the lessons they learned from the papers received through the years to provide the participants with ideas and insights about the elements that make a high quality paper.