Association for Information Systems
AIS Electronic Library (AISeL)

December 2003

Philosophical Foundations of Information Systems: Past, Present, and Future Directions (Panel)

Deborah Bunker
University of New South Wales

Melissa Cole
Brunel University

James Courtney
University of Central Florida

John Haynes
University of Central Florida

Kalle Lyytinen
Case Western Reserve University

Follow this and additional works at: http://aisel.aisnet.org/amcis2003

PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Chairs

Deborah Bunker
SISTM
University of New South Wales

Melissa Cole
Brunel University

Panelists

James F. Courtney
University of Central Florida

John D. Haynes
University of Central Florida

Kalle Lyytinen
Weatherhead School of Management
Case Western Reserve University

This AMCIS research track was originally created as The Foundations of Information Systems track at the DSS conference in Hawaii with founding members Jaana Porra, William Hodges, Jim Courtney and John Haynes in 1995. In 1996 the same founding members formalized 'TFIS' into the AMCIS Philosophical Foundations of Information Systems (PFIS) research track.

PFIS has had an illustrious history during the last 9 years (8 years at AMCIS), moving from strength to strength and meeting the needs of the international IS community to debate the philosophical underpinnings of our disciplinary area. In the eight years at AMCIS the track has published over 150 papers covering topics as diverse as Churchman's work on inquiring systems (a recurrent theme since 1997), IS from a phenomenological perspective, colonial systems, IS and ethics, epistemology, social issues, as well as IS in context.

Membership of the group over this time has come from USA, Australia, Finland, France, UK, Spain, New Zealand, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, Malaya, Canada, Holland and Germany.

The panel chairs will firstly present an overview of the research trends from 136 papers within the track over the first 7 years of its activity at AMCIS. The panel will then discuss the 2003 paper selection and how this relates to the greater body of work produced by the track. Both the panel and the audience will then discuss the implications of these trends for the future research activity of the group.

A track status paper will be produced, by the panel chairs for distribution to the panel attendees (on the day). A concept map will also be produced as a result of the panel and audience deliberations and emailed to participants post conference.