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Publishing IS Research in and about Latin America

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Publishing IS Research in and about Latin America

Panel Proposal

TOPIC

Recent surveys show that Latin America is home to approximately 10% of the world's population and possesses nearly 10% of its wealth. This data alone should be enough to justify the importance of this region. However, and notwithstanding AMCIS' decision to host this year's conference in the Latin American region, relatively little IS research from or about Latin America is published in the conferences and journals of the IS discipline. We do not believe that this situation reflects poor quality research being undertaken in Latin America, but we do think that Latin American scholars may need additional support for their research, support that can usefully come from both journal editors and international scholars from Latin America who have succeeded in internationalising their work about Latin America.

PURPOSE

The panel is designed to serve as a venue where issues associated with the publication of research written both by Latin American researchers and for the Latin American context can be discussed. The panelists are either the editors of journals which publish IS research papers about the Latin American context or prominent IS scholars from Latin America. Attendees at this panel can expect to learn both about publication opportunities in the represented journals, as well as more generally, and publication strategies adopted by successful IS scholars. We hope that Latin American researchers in particular will find this panel valuable since it should help to ensure that they can reach a wider audience for their research. English, Spanish and Portuguese language journals will be included in the panel discussion.

FACILITATORS

Dr. Robert Davison, Dept of Information Systems, City University of Hong Kong; editor in Chief of the Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries (<http://www.ejisdc.org>), an online, open access journal that includes Latin America as a valid context for research within its intended scope. Robert's research currently focuses on Knowledge Management in Chinese firms, but he has had a long standing interest in how IS can be applied to developing countries, an interest that led to the establishment of EJISDC in 1999. To date, EJISDC has published 262 papers in 39 volumes and boasts a readership from over 100 countries. More details from: <http://www.is.cityu.edu.hk/staff/isrobert>.

Dr. Luiz Antonio Joia is an Associate Professor, MBA Head and Principal of the *e:lab* – Research Laboratory on e-Government and e-Business at the Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration of Getulio Vargas Foundation. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Rio de Janeiro State University. He has published three books, several chapters and articles in a variety of international journals. He is a member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Intellectual Capital* and *Electronic Government*. He is also a senior editor at the *Electronic Journal Information Systems in Developing Countries* (www.ejisdc.org). He was a World Bank consultant in Educational Technology and is an invited member of the Technical Committee of IFIP Working Group 8.5 (Informatics in the Public Administration). His research interests lie on IT for Development, e-Government, e-Business, Strategic Use of IT, and Actor-Network Theory. More details from: <http://www.ebape.fgv.br/faculty/luizjoia>.

INVITED PANELISTS

Dr. Martha Garcia-Murillo is an Associate Professor and Director of the Telecommunications and Network Management Master's program at the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University. She also worked as a regulatory officer at the International Telecommunications Union in Geneva, Switzerland and has been involved in the research of several regional and international UN, US State Department and other international organizations. Dr. García-Murillo specializes in regulation of information and communication technologies. Her areas of research include institutional and evolutionary economics in the ICT sector, the impact of regulation on business behavior, factors that affect infrastructure deployment, regulation of telecommunications in Latin America, the impact of convergence on regulatory bodies. She also has worked on tools and techniques for theory construction.

Dr. Alexandre Graeml is Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Business of Universidade Positivo and at the IS Department of the Federal University of Technology - Parana (UTFPR) in Curitiba, Brazil. His research interests involve the Internet's impact on organizations and our society, IS issues in general, social research networks and ethics in academia. He is

the editor of Revista Eletronica de Sistemas de Informacao (Information Systems Electronic Journal: <http://revistas.facecla.com.br/index.php/reinfo>).

Dr Carlos Ferran is an Assistant Professor of MIS at the Pennsylvania State University. He Holds a D.B.A. from Boston University (USA) and a Master in Finance from Universidad Metropolitana (Venezuela). Dr. Ferran was born in Venezuela and is the Editor-in-Chief of the AIS's Journal RELCASI (Revista Latinoamericana y del Caribe de la Asociación de Sistemas de Información). RELCASI is the first and only MIS academic journal in Spanish. He has taught and given academic lectures in IAE (Argentina), Xi'an Jiaotong University (China), INALDE (Colombia), ITESO (Mexico), IESA (Venezuela), and ULA (Venezuela). His latest publication appeared in Management Science. He is a vice-president for the Latin American and Caribbean Association of Information Systems (LACAIS) and for the AIS Accounting Information Systems SIG (SIGASYS). He is also the MIS track chair for BALAS 2010 and the AIS track chair for AMCIS 2010.

PANEL FORMAT

The first part of the session will be a general 15-minute introduction, given by one of the facilitators. This introduction will include information to introduce the current 'state of the art' of IS research in Latin America, as well as indicators of local, regional and international resources that are relevant to Latin American scholars. Each of the panelists will then be asked to provide a five-minute perspective as scholar and/or editor on the topic. The remainder of the time will be devoted to an interaction between the audience and the panel members. In order to guide this interaction in a constructive way, we have identified a number of pertinent questions that both the audience and the panel members may like to consider. These are listed below. Finally, the panel facilitators will undertake a five-minute summary to wrap the session up.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the key problems experienced by Latin American IS researchers related to publication of their research?
2. What resources (perhaps currently unavailable) would be most valuable for Latin American IS researchers?
3. What are the critical success factors (and critical failure factors) that relate to the publication of IS research a) by Latin American researchers, b) about Latin America?
4. How can Latin American IS researchers develop their own theories so as to be less dependent on theories developed in other cultures?