

## **“Simplifying” Digital Complexity? A Socio-Technical Perspective. Editorial Introduction to Issue 33 of CSIMQ**

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This thematic issue focuses on the importance of socio-technical perspective in research and practice. A socio-technical perspective sees an organization as a combination of two components – a social and a technical one. The real pattern of behaviors in the organization is determined by how well these parts fit each other. While analyzing system problems of getting things done, adequate consideration should be given to technology as well as informal and formal interactions of people with the technology as well as with other people using the technology.

Despite that a socio-technical perspective has been around for over a half century, it is often forgotten in the IS discourse today. Consequently, many “new approaches” appear to reflect on IS systems problems, such as modern IT systems poorly adjusted to the external or/and internal environment (e.g., market, organizational culture) of organizations in which they are (to be) deployed. We strongly believe that it is important that the social-technical perspective finally takes its proper place in IS research, practice and teaching.

The four papers of this issue provide evidence to this statement. Each of them presents the socio-technical perspective as a lens enabling researchers and practitioners to deal with the complexity generated by the widespread and fast adoption of emerging digital technologies in different contexts and domains: a research field (design ethics), a socio-economical phenomenon (COVID-19 pandemic), an industry (healthcare), and an organizational domain (SMEs). More in detail:

- Rajanen aims at raising awareness and dialogue about ethical dimensions of human-technology design of socio-technical systems in general, the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) designer responsibility towards users, stakeholders and the society in particular, as well as the raise of dark side of design and the responses of the HCI community to it.
- Atanassova and Bednar apply a socio-technical lens to shed light on the organizational learning processes taking place in 40 various sizes and kinds of UK businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Reference: M. Rajanen and A. Ravarini, ““Simplifying” Digital Complexity? A Socio-Technical Perspective. Editorial Introduction to Issue 33 of CSIMQ,” *Complex Systems Informatics and Modeling Quarterly*, CSIMQ, no. 33, pp. I–II, 2022. Available: <https://doi.org/10.7250/csimq.2022-33.00>

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- Isind and Hult describe the design and development of a mobile app for food nutrition information as part of diabetes self-management and critically discuss its implications for patients and designers.
- Perozzo et al. addresses a research gap in the literature that has neglected cybersecurity readiness in SMEs.