Introduction to Practice-based IS Research Minitrack

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More than ever, the past year has challenged academics to deliver research that is of value to practice. A recent guest editorial in the MIS Quarterly Executive identified emerging priorities for Information Systems leaders:[1]

- Do more with less
- Support the distributed workforce
- Enable the resilient organization
- Reach the distributed customer base
- Secure the organization and safeguard the employees

Each one of these priorities provides fertile ground for academics to make substantive contributions to practice in the following areas described in the editorial:

- Transforming work
- Transforming business
- Creating a culture
- Social implications
- Transforming infrastructure

Consistent with these calls, the December 2021 Special Issue of *MISQE* will focus on Crisis-Driven Digital Transformation, and it will feature a pre-HICSS workshop.

This mini-track, a yearly venue for academics interested in informing practice, offers practice-based research on new and emerging IS issues in organizations. Practice-based research aims to bridge the gap between academic theory and practice; it aspires to introduce researchers to state-of-the-art techniques and topics from industry, introduce managers to research that makes sense, and bring coherence to the problems they face. The methods used in practice-based research are often exploratory, field-based studies involving interviews, observations, and/or descriptive surveys.

The intense pressure to achieve methodological distinction and theoretical contribution often result in very current practice-based topics being eschewed by researchers because the topics themselves are not mature enough in practice to attain desirable samples or sample sizes, nor are they conducive to theorizing since so little is known. These are precisely the reasons that exploratory, practice-based research can play a tremendous role in helping establish and lay the foundations of a research domain while providing insights into an emerging topic.

This mini-track's objective is to encourage practice-based research in information systems and disseminate that research results in a manner that makes its relevance and utility readily apparent.

This mini-track invites authors to submit in-depth research that provides rich stories, unique insights, and useful conceptual frameworks for information systems practice. Papers are based upon single cases, multiple cases, field interviews, or literature itself. While it is assumed that researchers are guided by theory, it is not expected that the submissions to this mini-track make distinct or novel theoretical contributions. The contributions focus on essential and unique lessons for practice. The mini-track chairs coordinate with the editors at *MIS Quarterly Executive* in selecting papers for fast-tracking to an issue of *MISQE*.

Overall, papers appearing in this mini-track:

- Showcase high-quality practice-oriented IS research
- Promote practice-oriented IS research as a critical source of insight and guidance for digital leaders
- Provide researchers a platform to present and discuss their practice-oriented IS research findings and expose the community to current challenges in creating value with IT
- Help identify the most challenging managerial issues for digital/IT leaders and frame them as new questions that could guide future practice-oriented IS research.

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[1] Watson, Richard; Ives, Blake; and Piccoli, Gabriele (2020) "Guest Editorial: Practice-Oriented Research Contributions in the Covid-19 Forged New Normal," *MIS Quarterly Executive*: Volume 19 : Issue 2, Article 2. Available at: https://aisel.aisnet.org/misqe/vol19/iss2/2

HICSS