IN5210 Information Systems

Fall 2023, Seminar 1



Agenda

- Get to know each other
- Form groups
- Seminar structure
- Reading a research paper
- Being a researcher
- Discussing this week’s themes



Introductions

- Who am I?
- Who are you?

- Names and usernames + what discipline are you from (design, dighel, prosa, ICTL, other?) on the paper that is passed around
- Create groups

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- **Research interests**
  - Health information systems
    - Health registers
    - Electronic patient records
    - Laboratory systems
    - Developers, users, end-users, health personnel, patients, close contacts
  - Infectious diseases surveillance management systems
  - Contact tracing information systems
  - Sustainable and resilient information systems
  - Institutional theory
  - Digital transformation
  - Liminality theory

Seminar structure and requirements

- 2 hours seminar per week, 8 weeks of seminars, 6 assignments
  - Mandatory (80% = minimum 7 seminars and minimum 5 assignments)
  - Doctor's note to studienfo@ifi.uio.no > approved absence

NB!! If **absent 2 seminars** and/or **submit less than 5 assignments** > will **not be eligible** to take the exam!





A typical seminar

- Beforehand:
  - Read the mandatory and preferably the supplementary readings
  - Submit the assignment via Devilry
  - This is not a lecture. This is an environment where we discuss, ask questions and share our knowledge
  - We discuss topics from the previous week's lecture(s)
  - We alternate between group and plenum discussions

For your own and your peers' sake: come prepared to class!



Assignments

- 6 written assignments: 4 individual, 2 group assignments
  - 400 – 600 words
  - Written feedback
- All assignments are available on the course's website
- Submit to https://devilry.ifi.uio.no by Monday evening (23:59)

- Purpose: Train to write, apply concepts and theories



Reading a research paper

Strategies and techniques	Rationale
Read the whole thing	Major arguments and evidence matter more than details. Grasping the structure of the whole is more important than reading every word.
Decide how much time you will spend	Real-world time is limited. If you know exactly how long you can actually spend on reading, you can plan how much time to devote to each item.
Have a purpose and a strategy	You'll enjoy reading more, and remember it better, if you know exactly why you're reading.
Read actively	Never rely on the author's structures alone. Move around in the text, following your own goals.
Read it three times	First time for overview and discovery. Second time for detail and understanding. Third time for note-taking in your own words.
Focus on parts with high information content	Tables of contents, pictures, charts, headings, and other elements contain more information than body text.
Use PTML (personal text markup language)	Mark up your reading with your own notes. This helps you learn and also helps you find important passages later.
Know the author(s) and organizations	Authors are people with backgrounds and biases. They work in organizations that give them context and depth.
Know the intellectual context	Most academic writing is part of an ongoing intellectual conversation, with debates, key figures, and paradigmatic concepts.
Use your unconscious mind	Leave time between reading sessions for your mind to process the material.
Rehearse, and use multiple modes	Talking, visualizing, or writing about what you've read helps you remember it.

Paul N. Edwards, How to Read a Book

Use of sources and citations

- You must reference!
- You must not commit plagiarism!
- Academic Integrity:
  - “Scientific arguments and claims should be open to testing and criticism. Correct use of sources and citations are elements in ensuring this”
  - https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/sources-citations/



The 7 Steps to Focus Researh (by Petter Nielsen)

1. State your main research problem motivating the research (one sentence)
2. State your main research question addressing the problem (one sentence)
3. Define the key concept used in the thesis (one sentence
4. State your unit of analysis and empirical setting (one sentence)
5. State your research approach/method (one sentence)
6. State your main (expected) contribution (one sentence)
7. Write a title that communicates the essence of the research

To Recap…

- We have introduced the field of **Information Systems (IS)** as centred on the participation of information and communication technology to, and impact on, organisations and society
- We have discussed five main **thematic areas** of interest in IS research, and four main **theoretical perspectives** on which IS research is based
- This equips us to deal with the **methodologies** and methods of IS research!

From Silvia Masiero's lecture

Discussion:



Phenomena



Concept



Argument



Theory

For this seminar you were asked to read Sørencense C. (2016)



WHAT TYPE OF PAPER IS THIS?
WHO IS THE AUDIENCE?



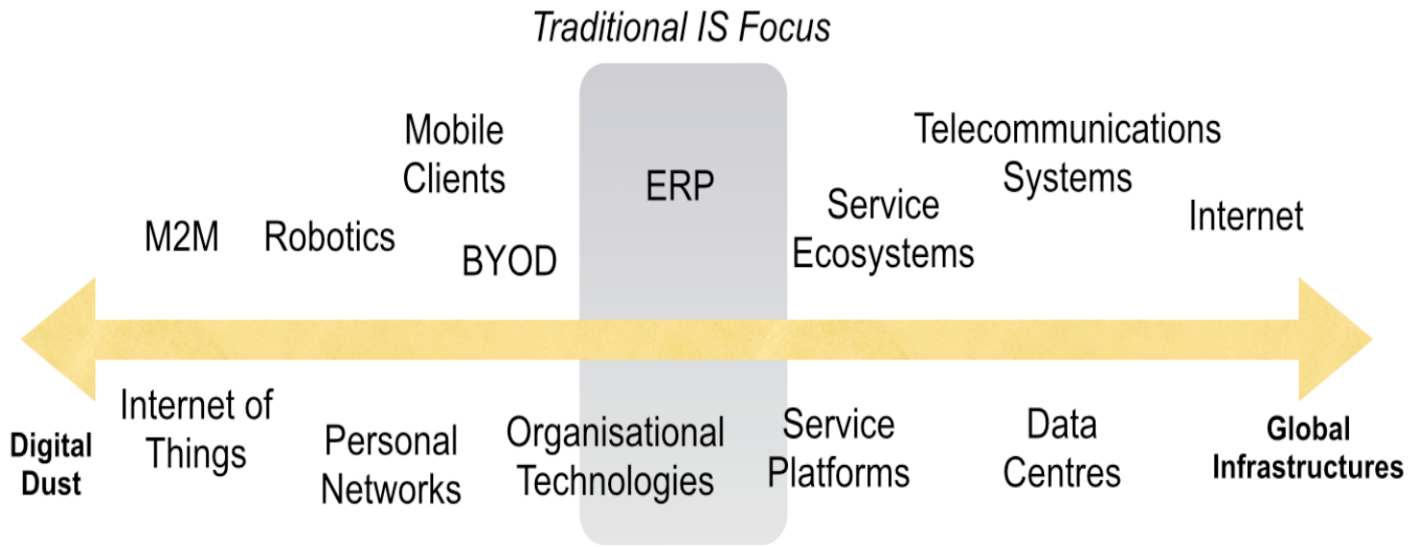
WHAT ARE THE ARGUMENTS?



WHAT ARE THE KEY CONCEPTS?

Avgerou(2000) and Sørensen (2016

- Applications of IT to support organizational functioning
- The process of systems development
- Information systems management
- The organizational falue of information systems
- The societal, including political, impact of information systems



Discuss the following:



What do I want to study?



How is my knowledge of reality constructed?

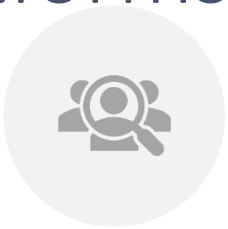


How do I need to go about to do my research?

Choose two of the following platforms:



TIKTOK, FACEBOOK, LINKEDIN, FINN.NO, ALTINN.NO, APPLE, GOOGLE



DO YOU USE THEM?



HOW AND HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE THEM?



HOW DO THEY – THE COMPANIES' BUSINESS MODELS - AFFECT YOU IN ANY WAY?



Your first assignment!

Assignment 1 - Individual

Due date: September 11, 23:59

Reading: Myers 2017: Qualitative Research in Information Systems

Written Assignment (400-600 words):

1. Describe the three research paradigms.
2. What are the main differences between the three research paradigms?
3. Which paradigm fits your understanding of the world and why?