

Association for Information Systems Southern African Chapter (AISSAC)

SOUTHERN AFRICAN CHAPTER OF THE AIS Annual Newsletter: September 2016

In this newsletter we announce the fourth annual AISSAC Seminar, introduce our keynote speakers and share highlights from last year's AISSAC Seminar.

AISSAC Seminar 2016

The 2016 AISSAC Seminar will be held on Monday 26th September preceding the 2016 SAICSIT Conference in Johannesburg. This year the seminar's theme is "*Innovative Approaches to Information Systems Research*".

Our first keynote speaker, Prof Michael Myers (University of Auckland Business School), will present on the topic of "***From traditional worlds to virtual worlds: my experience with ethnographic research***". Ethnographic research is one of the most in-depth research methods possible. In this talk Professor Myers will discuss the value of qualitative research in general and ethnographic research in particular for IS scholarship. Giving some examples from his own work, he will show how ethnography is a powerful qualitative research method for discovering what is happening and why in traditional worlds, postmodern worlds, online worlds and virtual worlds.

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Our second keynote speaker, Dr Leif Scheuermann (University of Graz, Austria) will present on the topic of "**Genuine digital Hermeneutics in IS**". This promises to be an important contribution to the development of philosophical perspectives on the use of research methods in Information Systems Research.

Prof Michael D. Myers



Michael D. Myers is Professor of Information Systems and Head of the Department of Information Systems and Operations Management at the University of Auckland Business School. His research focuses on the relationship between IT and people in an organizational context, and how this context can be studied. He has published 24 articles in A* journals as ranked by the Australian Business Deans' Council. Michael won the Best Paper award (with Heinz Klein) for the most outstanding paper published in *MIS Quarterly* in 1999. This paper has been cited over 4000 times. He previously served as Senior Editor of *MIS Quarterly* from 2001-2005, as Senior Editor of *Information Systems Research* from 2008-2010, and currently serves as Senior Editor of *Information & Organization* and *Pacific Asia Journal of the*

AIS. He also served as President of the Association for Information Systems (AIS) in 2006-2007 and as Chair of the International Federation of Information Processing (IFIP) Working Group 8.2 from 2006-2008. Michael is a Fellow of the Association for Information Systems.

Dr Leif Scheuermann



Dr. Leif Scheuermann is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Ancient Studies at Karl-Franzens University Graz. He has held this position since 2015. He works in the fields of ancient Historical Geography, Religious Studies and Digital History. After his studies in History and Philosophy, he worked as a research assistant at the Institute of Nuclear Technology and Energy Systems, at the University of Stuttgart and at the Historical Seminar at the University of Hamburg.

In 2010 he finished his Ph D thesis at the Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, University of Erfurt (Germany), where he became coordinator at the “Interdisciplinary Center of E-humanities in History and Social Sciences”. In January 2016 he was a Fellow at the Excellence Cluster Topoi in Berlin. From October 2016 he will be located at the Austrian Centre for Digital Humanities at the University of Graz.

AISSAC Seminar 2015

The 2015 AISSAC Seminar was held on Monday 28th September 2015 preceding the 2015 SAICSIT Conference in beautiful Stellenbosch. The seminar was once again a resounding success, building on the experience of the previous AISSAC seminars. The seminar’s theme was “***A better world with IS: Research methods and opportunities***” and discussions included discussions on research discourses around methodology and how these methods can be used to address gaps in IS research.

Professor Cathy Urquhart (of Digital and Sustainable Business at Manchester Metropolitan



University Business School) contributed towards the successful seminar with her presentations on Grounded Theory. She is the author of *Grounded Theory for Qualitative Research* and discussions on research methodologies benefitted from her experience as Senior Editor for *MIS Quarterly*, as well as an Associate Editor for *Information Technology and Development*.



Attendees of the AISSAC 2015 seminar

AISSAC AGM and Council

The 2015 AGM brought changes to the AISSAC Executive Board. We said good bye to Prof. Jan Kroeze as president, who will now be our immediate Past-President. Dr Emma Coleman was elected as President and Maureen Tanner as President-Elect.



AISSAC Board Members attending the AISSAC 2015 seminar. From left: Aurona Gerber (At-Large Director), Alta van der Merwe (At-Large Director), Carina de Villiers (At-Large Director), Jan Kroeze (Immediate-Past-President), Emma Coleman (President), Maureen Tanner (President-Elect) and Roxanne Piderit (Secretary)

Board members not present: Melius Weideman (Website Content Manager), Elisha Ochola (Student Chapter President), Jan Mentz (At-Large Director), Sonja Gilliland (At-Large Director), Jason Cohen (At-Large Director), Hugo Lotriet (At-Large Director), Mac van der Merwe (At-Large Director).

AISSAC's First Award

AISSAC's first award, presented at the AISSAC Seminar 2015, very fittingly went to AISSAC's Inaugural President, Prof Jan Kroeze, for service to the Southern African AIS community. As inaugural President, Jan oversaw the development and registration of the Southern African Chapter within the Association for Information Systems. Prof Kroeze has led three very successful pre-SAICSIT seminars which were keynoted by internationally leading IS Academics and Senior Scholars. Carol Saunders, Bob Galliers, Geoff Walsham and Cathy Urquhart all provided invaluable insights that have developed the methodological and topic knowledge of academics and scholars within Southern Africa. Prof Kroeze has also represented AISSAC as President at several international conferences and attended AIS SIGs and Chapters workshops as part of his dedication to furthering the Chapter. The President's Award shows recognition for how far Prof. Kroeze has taken the AIS' Southern African Chapter since its inception, and it is very well deserved.



Prof. Jan Kroeze received the AISSAC President's award from our new President, Dr. Emma Coleman.

Membership

To join AISSAC please visit <http://www.aissac.org/index.php/join-aissac>.

Join the Southern African Chapter of the Association for Information Systems (AISSAC) mailing list today @ <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/aissaclist>.

For more background on AISSAC visit <http://www.aissac.org/>.