The Future of the IS Discipline: Further Reflections

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Whilst there is much talk about whether there is or is not a future for the IS discipline, in this seminar Rudy Hirschheim will attempt to articulate what the current thinking is (from a largely US-centric perspective). In particular, he will look at what is happening to the discipline regarding student numbers and the implications of offshoring. He shall also offer some thoughts on what the discipline can do to avoid the pitfalls of what happened with disciplines who failed to recognize the changing academic and practitioner landscape. It is the hope that the session will be an interactive one, where everyone will be able to share their thoughts. Rudy Hirschheim will particularly welcome thoughts on how the European landscape is, or is not, different from the US one.

Rudy Hirschheim is the Ourso Family Distinguished Professor of Information Systems in the Information Systems and Decision Sciences Department of the E. J. Ourso College of Business Administration at Louisiana State University. His research interests include: the managerial and organizational aspects of new information technology; systems development methodologies; social impacts of information technology; philosophical issues of IS research; and the evolution and management of the IS function. His most recent focus of attention has been on the sourcing of the IS function, see in particular the books *Information Systems Outsourcing: Myths, Metaphors and Realities*, *Beyond the Information Systems Outsourcing Bandwagon: The Insourcing Response* (both co-authored with Mary Lacity) and *Information Systems Outsourcing in the New Economy: Enduring Themes, Emergent Patterns and Future Direction* (co-edited with A. Heinzi and J. Dibbern).

Rudy Hirschheim and Richard Boland are the Consulting Editors of the Wiley Series in Information Systems published out of Wiley's office in Chichester, England. Also, Rudy Hirschheim is on the editorial boards of the journals: *Journal of the Association for Information Systems; Information and Organizations* (formerly Accounting, Management and Information Technologies); *Information Systems Journal; Journal of Strategic Information Systems;* and *Journal of Information Technology*; and has previously been on the boards of: *European Journal of Information Systems* and *MIS Quarterly*. In 1998 he was the Program Co-chair of ICIS’98 in Helsinki. In 2005 he was the Doctoral Consortium Co-Chair for ICIS in Las Vegas. He was also the Vice President - Publications for the Association for Information Systems.

His consulting has been with numerous organizations in the U.S., Europe, Singapore, Argentina and South Africa. He has also been a principal investigator on a number of research projects in the U.S. and Europe, as well as acting as an "expert examiner" for the European Commission on a number of their funded research projects in the ESPRIT program.