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RECONCEPTUALIZING INFORMATION SYSTEMS AS SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Dynamic Institutional Theory

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Abstract: Despite the increase in the design and implementation of large-scale IS within and across organizations, in the IS field there is lack of understanding of exactly what large-scale IS involve and how they evolve over time. At the same time there have been ongoing debates among IS researchers about the nature and concept of today's information systems, the core subject matter in the IS field. This paper offers a new way of conceptualizing (large-scale) IS as social institutions and discusses theoretical and practical implications. This paper is part of an on-going project to develop an institutional theory for the IS field, Dynamic Institutional Theory (DIT), as a meta-framework that can provide adequate levels of explanations for several emerging issues related to large-scale IS.

Keywords: Large-scale Information Systems, Institutional Theory, Social Institutions, IS Conceptualization, IS Research, IS Theory

About the Author

Bongsug Chae is an assistant professor of Information Systems at Kansas State University. He was born in South Korea and achieved his PhD in Information Systems from Texas A&M University in USA. His research interests include information technology and organizational change, knowledge management, IS development and implementation issues, philosophical foundations of information systems, IT diffusion, adaptation and use, and the use of IT to support ethical and wisdom-base decision making. He can be reached by e-mail at bchae@ksu.edu.