

Call for Papers
European Journal of Information Systems
Special Series on Contrarian Information Systems Studies

Contrarian research studies (C-studies) are those that dispute, contradict, refute, or debunk previous research findings. We are particularly interested in “significant” IS C-studies, those that contradict theories and practices that are well-entrenched and founded on widely accepted original research studies (O-studies). Novel C-studies are important to progressive development of an academic discipline because re-thinking of foundations avoids staid or pedantic confinement of new research to predetermined paths. We expect the series to engender real debate and yield significant further material for publication in EJIS.

Contrarian studies are problematic for academic review processes partly because authoritative segments of an academic community are necessarily vested in existing knowledge foundations. The subject matter experts who comprise peer review panels often will have published works anchored to the O-studies under reconsideration. As a result, the normal peer-review process can sometimes be biased toward rejection of C-studies.

EJIS will seek to reduce the bias against papers submitted to this special series by convening specially selected review panels, including subject matter experts who agree beforehand to ascribe an open-minded attitude about such C-studies. Beyond this conditioning, C-studies papers will undergo our usual, rigorous double-blind review process.

- Papers submitted to the C-studies series may be couched in terms that are provocative but they must offer evidence and argumentation that is demonstrated to be at least as strong as any O-studies being disputed.
- Special attention will be paid to the writing style of C-studies submission. It is the aim of the series to enable conflict among the ideas in our scholarly literature, *not* to engender personal conflict among the scholars in our profession. Standards of professional courtesy in the writing style will be higher than those typically allowed in regular EJIS papers.
- Whenever possible, EJIS will seek to publish at least one response together with a paper in the C-studies series. This response is intended to represent rebuttal argumentation and evidence in support of the O-studies under scrutiny.
- Both C-studies and their underlying O-studies must fall within the normal scope of EJIS.

Deadlines

This series will be published as an ongoing special series. Submissions to the special section will be admitted for review processing between 1st January 2009 and 30th June 2010, and scheduled for publication upon acceptance. Papers in the Contrarian Studies Series will be identified as such in the table of contents and on the title page of the article.

Submission

Submissions to the special series should be made through the EJIS online submission system at <http://www.palgrave-journals.com/ejis>. For the purpose of submission, the special series is listed among the “special issues” available on the web site. Authors interested in developing works for this series are strongly encouraged to contact the editors early in their process of developing the research: Richard Baskerville, Georgia State University, baskerville@acm.org and Joe Nandhakumar, Warwick University, Joe.Nandhakumar@wbs.ac.uk