Four research papers and four opinion papers make up this issue of the European Journal of Information Systems. It is my pleasure to introduce the four research papers here. The four opinion papers are part of an opinion series on journal ranking lists, and my colleague Richard Baskerville introduces them somewhat later in this issue.

The first paper, *Stakeholder management in IOS projects*, by Boonstra, Boddy, and Bell, reports a case study of an inter-organisational information system in the Dutch healthcare sector. The case study covers the implementation of a so-called electronic patient file, which was to contain patient information that could be shared with all parties involved.

This is an interesting case study in that real benefits could be identified for each of the parties, yet eventually the information system was unsuccessful despite these benefits. The authors demonstrate how the use of a stakeholder approach can clarify why events occurred as they did, and how the stakeholder approach is superior to an approach that would use a less political, more economic perspective.

The second paper, *A multiple narrative approach to information systems failure*, by Bartis and Mitev, continues with the – not entirely uplifting – theme of information systems that did not materialise despite good intentions. The case study involved the implementation of a work time registration system at a fast moving consumer good company in Eastern Europe. Information systems that monitor human behaviour are traditionally sensitive to politics, and this case proves to be no exception.

Rather than a stakeholder approach, these authors use the method of multiple narratives to examine the patterns of behaviour that took place in this case study. Like the stakeholder approach, this approach has a decidedly political dimension, and I would encourage the reader to study both papers and compare the approaches used in each of them.

The third paper, *Beyond organisational agendas*, by Córdoba-Pachón and Midgley, integrates traditional information system planning methods with a critical systems thinking perspective. It reports on an information system planning exercise at a university in Colombia, and demonstrates how a more inclusive approach to planning, one that takes wider social issues into account, can be fruitful.

The fourth paper is *Information system development activities and inquiring systems*, by Carugati. The author discusses the connection between the different phases in an information system development life cycle and the modes of knowledge inquiry that can be witnessed within each phase. The author illustrates how such a connection can illuminate the events that occurred in a Danish case study that involved the implementation of an inventory management system for a shipping company.

The papers in this issue of the European Journal of Information Systems cover four cases, from the Netherlands, Eastern Europe, Columbia, and Denmark, respectively. Together they present a rich set of data on organisational behaviour and the development and implementation of information systems. The cases are obviously very different from each other, but reading through the lines, the perceptive reader will find some interesting similarities too. I invite you to study these papers and I am sure you will find it an intellectually stimulating, enjoyable exercise.