UNSW Business School

School of Information Systems and Technology Management

Research Seminar

Presentation title:	Datification and the pursuit of meaningfulness in work
Presenter:	Professor Sue Newell, Warwick Business School, UK
Date & Time:	Wednesday, 17th April 2019	11AM-12PM
Venue:	Room 2063, Level 2 Quadrangle Building, UNSW Sydney

Abstract

Proliferation of digitally tracking worker activities has contributed to the rise of data-driven approaches to managing people, with employees often required to record their activities for accountability purposes. This rise in datification work occurs at the same time that meaningfulness at work is becoming increasingly important to workers. Datification work could both facilitate and hinder the pursuit of meaningfulness, yet there is limited literature to-date on this topic. Our inductive study of academic professionals using an accountability system suggests that datification work characteristics link to meaningful work experiences in complex ways. We advance current theory on work meaningfulness by theorizing the role of a new work condition – datification – in meaningfulness experiences of professionals, outlining how system design and the institutional context become important elements influencing meaningful work experiences, and explaining how meaningfulness experiences are constructed through system appropriations.

Speaker Bio

Sue Newell is a Professor of Information Systems and Management at Warwick Business School as well as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programmes. She has most recently worked at Sussex University in the UK (where she was Head of Department of Business and Management), and Bentley University in the USA (where she was Director of the Doctoral Programme). She has a BSc and PhD from Cardiff University, UK. Sue's research focuses on understanding the relationships between innovation, knowledge and organisational networking (ikon) - primarily from an organisational theory perspective. She was one of the founding members of ikon, a research centre based at Warwick University (http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/wbs/research/ikon/). Her research emphasises a critical, practice-based understanding of the social aspects of innovation, change, knowledge management and inter-firm networked relations. Sue has published over 100 journal articles in the disciplines of information systems, organization studies and management, as well as numerous books and book chapters.