Track 3: Alternative Genres

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Description

Scholarly work in Information Systems (IS) research is expected to follow certain conventions that entail a more or less defined genre, a recognizable structure and expected content. The Alternative Genres Track seeks to highlight the role of genres in the production of scientific knowledge. The term "Alternative Genres" refers to new or unconventional ways of thinking, doing, and communicating scholarly work. It relates to novelty with respect to epistemological perspectives, research methods, semantic framing, and literary styles such as drama, tales and fiction, monologue, conversational dialogue, or confession, and media of expression such as short films, videos, or comics. In this way, alternative genres provide the opportunity to take a fresh look, to evoke new insights, and to gain deeper understanding of the subject matter. In this track, we adopt a broad view of alternative genres to embrace any unconventional modality that expands or challenges the prevailing modus operandi of IS scholarship and practice. In particular, we seek contributions that aim to span or reframe the prevailing boundaries of IS scholarly work.

The conference theme ‘Digital Work, Digital Life’ calls for a broader and more inclusive view of IS scholarship, one that evokes new ways of conceptualizing, demonstrating and communicating our work. Such scholarship aspires to foster environmental, economic and social value and to suggest ways of using computer-enabled information systems for providing leverage and fulfilling human needs. Articles can apply any consistent theoretical frame, methodology, or unit of analysis. Both theoretical essays and empirical studies are equally sought. We particularly encourage submissions that challenge or reframe our taken-for-granted assumptions, perceptions and practices. We envision a general track on alternative genres that is open for a broad range of research and that can consolidate all related work into a rich repertoire on modalities of inquiry in the context of computer-enabled information systems.
Topics of Interest

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Applications of alternative genres and forms of writing to convey IS scholarship
- Illustrations of other media instead of, or in addition to, text to convey research results
- Literary and semiotic approaches to information and computer-based information systems
- Visual media based representations of IS scholarship
- Comics representations of IS scholarship
- Translation of alternative representational genres from other disciplines to IS research
- Re-telling the same empirical findings using different genres
- The generative capacity of alternative genres
- Alternative genres as a driver of boundary spanning
- The implications of including alternative genres in the IS discipline
- Unintended consequences of alternative genres—from serendipitous to undesired outcomes
- Strengths and weaknesses of existing genres in IS research

Sponsorship

Authors of selected papers will be invited to submit their paper to the respective special issue at *European Journal of Information Systems* following a paper development workshop. See further information here: [http://www.palgrave-journals.com/ejis/ejis_cfp_alternative_genres.pdf](http://www.palgrave-journals.com/ejis/ejis_cfp_alternative_genres.pdf)

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