Editorial Preface

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In this issue, the first article is by Angèle Beausoleil from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. Titled: Moore’s Law and Social Theory: Deconstructing and Redefining Technology Industry’s Innovation Edict the article notes the importance of technological innovation in defining and shaping our global economy and that this has made it a central research topic over the past decade.

The article considers Moore’s Law, that the author calls the “technology industry’s most eminent innovation edict”. The rise of electronics manufacturing technology, specifically the silicon transistor technology, is considered a major factor influencing technological innovation and in turn, affecting the world’s economic and social transformation. The article examines Moore’s Law as a socio-technical innovation process and proposes that it is a complex assemblage comprised of interrelationships between ambitious scientists, chemicals, engineered technologies, culture and society. The objective of the experimental study described was to examine the temporal socio-technical transformations and propose an alternative description for Moore’s Law.

Next is an article titled: Actor-Network Theory on Waste Management: A University Case Study by Sandra Méndez-Fajardo and Rafael A. Gonzalez from Javeriana University in Bogota, Colombia. The article begins by pointing out that in developing countries, territorial planners are confronted with rapid urbanization and its inherent solid waste management which has increased public health risks, and generated environmental and also socio-economic problems. In order to analyse these issues, a University campus (as a scaled city) was studied applying Actor-Network Theory to find key elements to take into account for sustainable solid waste management programs not only in universities but also in cities. The article describes this research by identifying different actors and the relationships between them in addition to their dynamics throughout solid waste management history. An important finding was that Environmental City’s Authorities requirements have been the main cause of actions related to hazardous waste within the campus, while scholar’s interests have initiated non-hazards.

The next article was contributed by Morten Holmqvist from the Department of Religious Education, MF Norwegian School of Theology. The article: The Material Logics of Confirmation sets out to explore the material spaces and logics of religious learning processes. It examines the discrepancy between religious
educators and the 14 year old confirmands that was evident during a year of ethnographic fieldwork. The study found that different notions of space with different logics of religious learning were established during the confirmation program, and that these were constituted by the interplay with material objects, pastors, catechists and confirmands. The article points to how materiality is part of religious learning and how materiality can open up for different ways of practicing and conceptualise religion. This article follows from one on a related topic by Ingrid Christine Reite (from the same institution), published in IJANTTI Volume 5, Issue 4.

Bader Binhadyan from RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia; Indrit Troshani from the University of Adelaide, Australia and Nilmini Wickramasinghe from Epworth HealthCare and RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia then write about: Improving the Treatment Outcomes for ADHD Patients with IS/IT: An Actor-network Theory Perspective. They assert that the key role for IS/IT in e-health has now been well established; however, within e-health the area of e-mental health is still new and emerging and scholars and practitioners alike are dubious as to the role for IS/IT and its benefits. In the article they propose using ANT to assist in understanding the enabling role in e-mental health and focus specifically on adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The article describes how technology has the potential to improve mental health services how this can be seen in enabling early intervention or treatment for people with mental health issues. Saudi Arabia is investing heavily in e-health and aiming to build a complete patient electronic record by 2020.

The final article in this issue: Is there a Common Epistemological Ground of Actor-Network Theory and Media Aesthetics? A Meta-phonological Essay has been contributed by Veronika Pöhnl from the University of Konstanz, Germany. The article constitutes a highly original discussion of the connections between ANT and Media Studies. The author notes that based on the increased interest in ANT in Media Studies, this paper discusses similarities and differences in the epistemological premises of ANT and German Media Studies, and in particular, Media Aesthetics. By juxtaposing the epistemological premises of ANT and those of techno-philosophically informed approaches of media theory, profound resemblances as well as fundamental differences are outlined.

While some issues of IJANTTI have had a small number of quite long articles (around 10,000 words each), the journal accepts articles of any length from 3,500 words up to about 12,000 words. Also, articles do not have to relate specifically to Actor-Network Theory, but could instead relate to other socio-technical approaches to the investigation of Technological Innovation. We welcome articles comparing other approaches to socio-technical research with ANT, and also other approaches to technological innovation with innovation translation.

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