

## EDITORIAL PREFACE

*Arthur Tatnall, Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia*

In line with its nature as an ‘international’ journal, articles in this issue come from authors in Indonesia, France, Poland and Australia.

The first article in this issue: “*Failure to Launch: Scope Creep and Other Causes of Failure from an Actor-Network Theory Perspective*” is by Samiaji Sarosa from Atma Jaya Yogyakarta University, Indonesia and Arthur Tatnall from Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia. In project management the term ‘scope creep’ is used to describe the situation when some project requirements increase, probably as a result of the clients changing their ideas, and one of the main causes of delayed and failed information systems project development is scope creep. Demands by project stakeholders that lead to increases in the number of features required to be built into the applications within a fixed time limit is a recipe for failure. This article examines the process of a web application development failure where scope creep was deemed as the main cause. Data for this research was collected using participative observation and analysed to find patterns of negotiations and communications between all the stakeholders during the design process. Actor-Network Theory was used to explain the power plays between actors.

Next is an unusual and very interesting article by Pierre-Henri Garnier, Psychologist and Psychotherapist from Nantes University Hospital Centre, France and Jean-Pierre Courtial, Professor Emeritus in Communication and Information Sciences University of Nantes, France. Titled: “*The Fractal Spiral Model in Integrative Trauma Processing*”, the article applies the integrative spiral model of psychotherapy to the case of a patient who suffered a near-drowning experience. An enhancement to the model is put forward based on Actor-Network Theory giving it a fractal structure and ‘centralisation/densification’ dynamic.

An article by Johannes Eka Priyatma, Agnes Maria Polina and Agung Hernawan from Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia and is titled: “*Strategizing E-government Development Using an Actor-Network Theory Perspective*”. The article discusses e-government implementation failures and notes that these come partly from inappropriate strategies to implement it as a socio-technical entity. The article proposes a strategy for e-government development based on Actor-Network Theory. This strategy was developed from one important tenet of ANT in perceiving reality as a network of actors using a translation process. This is then critically reviewed in the case of an e-government development to support a regency administration in Indonesia. This review concluded that the proposed strategy was appropriate and relevant.

The fascinating article that follows: “*The Role of Gossip in the Creation and Miscreation of Company Identity from the Perspective of Actor-Network Theory*” was contributed by Mag-

dalena Bielenia-Grajewska from the University of Gdansk, Poland. In the article an attempt is made to show how ‘the grapevine’ shapes the relations between companies and stakeholders. The article focuses solely on one type of colloquial corporate socialising, namely gossiping. In the article the company, its organizational environment and its relation with gossip are studied by implying the notion of company identity as the interrelation between gossiping and company identity that has not been discussed by many researchers, although informal communication as such spans a number of disciplines. The article shows both the negative and positive sides of gossip in forming corporate communities and their character. Taking into account the growing role of networks in creating and sustaining different types of communication, gossiping is studied through the perspective of Actor-Network Theory that facilitates the understanding how human beings and non-living entities shape the way company identity is constructed and maintained.

The final, rather speculative article is by Arthur Tatnall, from Victoria University and Bill Davey from RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. It deals with “*The Internet of Things and Beyond: Rise of the Non-Human Actors*” and points out that in the past it was rare for non-humans to interact with each other without any involvement by humans, but that this is changing. The Internet of Things involves connections of physical things to the Internet. It is largely about the relationships between things, or non-humans actors. In some cases the ‘Things’ seem to have inordinate power and the article asks: where does this leave humans? Are the things taking over? As a consideration of interactions like this must be a socio-technical one the article makes use of Actor-Network Theory to frame the discussion. It is expected by many people that the ‘Things’ will become active participants in business, information and social processes and that they will communicate among themselves by exchanging data sensed from the environment, while reacting autonomously. The Things will continue to develop identities and virtual personalities. This perhaps provocative article looks not just at the Internet of Things, but other related concepts such as artificial intelligence and robotics and makes use of scenarios from science fiction to investigate the Rise of the Non-Human Actors and where this may lead in the future.

This issue of IJANTTI has five somewhat shorter articles, most around 5,000-6,000 words. 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.

After seven years as Editor-in-Chief of IJANTTI this is my last issue in this capacity as I am now handing this task over to Ivan Tchalakov, Plovdiv University, Bulgaria. After editing 28 issues of IJANTTI though I will certainly maintain an interest in how the journal is progressing and I wish Ivan all the best in progressing IJANTTI.

*Arthur Tatnall*  
*Editor-in-Chief*  
**IJANTTI**