Editorial Preface

Arthur Tatnall, Victoria University, Australia

In the first article of this issue, Andrea Quinlan from York University in Toronto, Canada imagines a feminist ANT. In her article titled: "Imagining a Feminist Actor-Network Theory," argues that Feminism and Actor-Network Theory have often been considered opposing theoretical and intellectual traditions. Her paper imagines a meeting between these seemingly divergent fields and considers the theoretical and methodological challenges that ANT and feminism raise for one another. This very interesting article examines an empirical project that calls for an engagement with both ANT and feminism and asks several methodological questions that an alliance between ANT and feminism would raise for any research project.

In the next article: "School Children with Learning Disabilities: An Actor-Network Analysis of the Use of ICT to Enhance Self-Esteem and Improve Learning Outcomes," Tas Adam and Arthur Tatnall from Victoria University, Australia describe an investigation into the use of Information and Communications Technologies to aid in the education of students with Learning Disabilities (sometimes also referred to as Special Needs). This heterogeneous group of students are seen to have significant difficulties in the acquisition of literacy and numeracy skills and so need extra assistance with their schooling. The reported study involved case studies and participant observation of the use of ICT in two outer metropolitan Special Schools in Melbourne, and an investigation of the role and impact of Education Department policies on these school environments.

In the third article: "Actor-Network Theory and the Online Investor," Arthur Adamopoulos, Martin Dick and Bill Davey from RMIT University, Australia consider ANT as a means of analysis of the way in which online investors use Internet-based services. An aspect of the research that emerged from interviews of a wide range of online investors is a peculiar effect of changes in non-human actors on the human actors. This paper reports on the particular case and postulates that this effect may be found, if looked for, in many other actor-network theory applications.

Next is an article by Petronnell Sehlola and Tiko Iyamu from Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria is titled: "Assessment of Risk on Information Technology Projects through Moments of Translation." The authors note that many of the IT solutions in an organisation are employed through projects, and

based on the reliance on IT solutions organisations' investment in IT projects has increased tremendously in recent times, which has been triggered by the premise that IT will help their organisation to yield solutions that will fulfill or exceed their expectations and so allow them to realise the required return on investment. Proper risk identification and management on IT projects is essential to ensure that the project is successful, but risks are never easy to identify or manage. Using one case, the study employed actor network theory to understand the factors which manifest themselves into risks during the deployment of IT projects in the organisation.

The final article: "Why Using Actor Network Theory (ANT) Can Help to Understand the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR) in Australia," has been contributed by Imran Muhammad, Say Yen Teoh, and Nilmini Wickramasinghe from RMIT University in Australia. In their article they note that globally, healthcare reforms are being initiated in an attempt to address the tremendous challenges facing healthcare systems and that these reforms include the implementation of a variety of e-health solutions, but that e-health solutions are complex and have far reaching implications. They make use of ANT as what they see as an appropriate lens to evaluate various e-health solutions and to illustrate in the context of the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR), the chosen e-health solution for Australia.

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Arthur Tatnall is an Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Business at Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia. In his PhD he used actor-network theory to investigate adoption of Visual Basic in the curriculum of an Australian university. Arthur's research interests include technological innovation, history of technology, project management, information systems curriculum, information technology in educational management and electronic business. Much of his research is based on the use of actor-network theory. Arthur is a Fellow of the Australian Computer Society and active in the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) as Chair of IFIP WG9.7 – History of Computing, Chair of IFIP WG3.4 – ICT in Professional and Vocational Education and a member of IFIP WG3.7 – Information Technology in Educational Management. He has published widely in journals, books, book chapters and conference proceedings and recently edited the Encyclopedia of Portal Technology and Applications*, and* Web Technologies: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications *for IGI Global. Arthur is also Editor-in-Chief of the* International Journal of Actor-Network Theory and Technological Innovation*, Editor-in-Chief of the* Journal of Education and Information Technologies*, and Editor of the* Journal of Business Systems, Governance and Ethics.