

Preface

Colette Rolland, in the words of Arne Solvberg, one of her oldest and closest friends, “was introduced to the wider European research community during the process of establishing a Technical Committee for Information Systems – TC8 – of IFIP – The International Federation of Information Processing Societies. Professor Børje Langefors from Sweden led the effort. He and his colleagues brought with them upcoming younger researchers. Professor Langefors brought Janis Bubenko Jr., Mads Lundeberg and Arne Sølvberg. Professor Le Moigne brought Colette. Together with Janis and Arne, Colette was instrumental in establishing the IFIP TC8 working group WG8.1 on the Design and Evaluation of Information Systems. She quickly established herself as a driving force in information systems research with her REMORA project. She was deeply involved in organizing the annual working conferences of the working group, which brought together a growing number of researchers from Europe and overseas. The network of young researchers that was formed in IFIP TC8 became the nucleus of the scientific community behind the CAiSE conference series, where Colette had a central role. She is today the undisputed ‘queen’ of information systems research, as well as a good friend to everyone in the international research community of information systems engineering.”

Amongst her numerous scientific qualities, Colette was able to abstract and formalize new and difficult problems, invent original concepts to deal with them, and develop methods, techniques and tools demonstrating how to use them in a very practical way.

Colette’s original contributions to the information systems engineering discipline have been abundant. Among others, she established the behavioral paradigm to information system design in which she promoted the event-driven approach with her REMORA methodology. She pioneered object orientation in information systems analysis and design with her O* methodology. She developed an original approach to system prototyping. Being at the cutting edge of meta-modeling, she was one of the earliest to specify methodological processes and introduce guidance features in CASE tools and to propose the concept of method chunks and contextual models to engineering methods. She was one of the main actors in promoting method engineering as a discipline. She created the NATURE decision-driven process meta-model. She formalized the coupling of goals and scenarios in the CREWS-*L’Ecritoire* requirements engineering method. She developed an intentional basis for process modeling in the notion of a MAP expressing intentions. She

brought the fitness analysis issue to the forefront. She was a strong supporter of dealing with services at the business level and explored service-based information systems. She developed many information systems engineering methods, CASE and CAME tools like REMORA, OICSI, RUBIS, MENTOR, and L'Ecritoire, to name but a few.

One of the most striking of Colette's numerous scientific contributions is that "intention" should be considered as a first-class concept in information systems engineering. Not only can it be handled in different ways and modeled with different languages. It is also fundamental to a number of application domains in performing various types of analysis and solving very different categories of problem: process specification, requirements engineering, service-oriented architectures, enterprise modeling, business IT alignment, COTS customization, etc. Indeed, as John Mylopoulos said, "Her plethora of contributions include novel concepts, methods and tools for building information systems, as well as dozens of young researchers who will carry the torch of her ideas for years to come. One of those ideas that has had tremendous impact on the field is the notion that system requirements are stakeholder goals—rather than system functions—and ought to be elicited, modeled and analyzed accordingly."

This book is a testimony of gratitude to Colette for her contribution to the concept of *intention*. The book was created with the idea of drawing a big picture of the different perspectives that exist today, in 2010, on this concept in the information systems community.

The book is a collection of 20 contributions in information systems engineering that were compiled on the occasion of Colette's retirement and will be distributed at the CAiSE conference in Tunisia. Even though Colette is General Chair of CAiSE 2010, we tried to hide this initiative from her, and she kindly pretended not to be aware of it. The contributions were written by friends and colleagues of Colette from around the world. In the difficult task of selecting who to invite, we decided to concentrate on those with whom she collaborated most closely, and some of those whom she took as examples for her young researchers, and referenced in her own papers. All those who were invited to be involved in this book were eager to participate, and have written original contributions on one of the numerous topics of interest to Colette. Some even wrote personal testimonies of friendship in their papers, which we found very touching.

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