

Preface

“The Ph.D. is about you.”

At a Ph.D. colloquium, a senior scholar of my research discipline taught us once the lesson that the outcome of a Ph.D. should be far more than the final thesis or another fancy academic title. Rather, doing a Ph.D. should be about self-improvement and about being better than you were the day before. Having completed my Ph.D. at the University of Mannheim, I am fortunate to say that I have spent most of my personal resources during the last 4 years on developing myself, my way of thinking, my way of working, and my way of interacting with people. Achievements and failures were equally important experiences on the way to completing it. The content of this book presents my reflections and best research practices of 4 years of studying socio-technical phenomena surrounding cloud computing. There are many people who I like to thank for encouraging, supporting, and inspiring me over the last 4 years in this process.

I am especially grateful with my supervisor, Prof. Dr. Daniel Veit with whom I enjoyed a very productive and collaborative relationship over the last few years. It was Daniel who gained me access to so many valuable resources. Between 2010 and 2014, I was honored to discuss my cloud research at various national (MKWI 2012, Braunschweig, Germany; WI 2013, Leipzig, Germany, MKWI 2014, Paderborn, Germany) and international conferences (ECIS 2013, Utrecht, Netherlands; ICIS 2013, Milano, Italy; ECIS 2014, Tel Aviv, Israel), workshops (ICIS 2012, Orlando, USA) as well as research seminars (University of Mannheim 2010–2013, Copenhagen Business School 2011–2014, University of Augsburg 2013–2014). I also contributed as a coauthor to one journal article on cloud computing (Hauff, S.; Huntgeburth, J.; Veit, D. (2014) Exploring Uncertainties in a Marketplace for Cloud Computing: A Revelatory Case Study, *Journal of Business Economics*, February 2014). Without Daniel’s encouragement and his academic leadership, this cloud publication record could not have been achieved.

Moreover, Daniel enabled me to spend 2 months at US research University. In April 2012, I was a McBride Fellow at Baylor University, Waco, Texas invited by Prof. Dorothy Leidner. During the time, Dorothy provided me with insights on Baylor’s Ph.D. program. I had the chance to participate in courses and in a Ph.D.

retreat and experienced a collaborative relationship with my fellow Ph.D. students among others Pat Curry and Puzant Balozian. Just 1 year later in March/April 2013, I visited Washington State University (WSU) as a Visiting Scholar invited by Prof. Suprateek Sarker. I again participated in courses and discussed with Supra and his wife Prof. Saonee Sarker my research projects. I admire both for their passion in conducting IS research and I am very thankful for their hospitality during my stay in Pullman. Although my time at WSU was short, I have to thank Chris Calif, Xiao Xiao, Tanya Beaulieu and Lael Gatewood for making me quickly feel part of their team. Overall, the research stays abroad have enabled me to build an international network of research fellows with who I like to continue collaborating in the future.

However, my strongest sources of influence have always been my colleagues at the chair. I have learned many things from Manuel Trenz and Dennis Steininger about research, about working and about life. During our almost 3 years as research and teaching assistant at University of Mannheim, Manuel, Dennis and I have intensively supported Daniel in transforming his chair. When we left Mannheim in February 2013, the chair was characterized by many motivated students, efficient administrative processes and an excellent publication output. Both Dennis' and Manual's passion and persistence were an inspiration for me to delivering high quality results. I also like to thank my former colleagues Dr. Nils Parasie, Dr. Martin Barth, Dr. Sabine Stollhof, Dr. Georg Buss, Dr. Eva Peslova, Dr. Philipp Wunderlich, Sabine Koch, Jens Förderer, Amelie Sach, Sabrina Hauff, An Bui, and Seda Yagci for great discussions and for creating an atmosphere where I enjoyed coming to work every day.

Let me finally address some personal words to my family and friends. Thank you for supporting me in what I do and giving me confidence in being able to overcome any difficulties on my way. Without you I would have never pursued a Ph.D. and would not be the person I am today.

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