

Preface

The papers in this volume constitute the proceedings of a working conference organized by the IFIP Working Group 8.2 whose brief is “The Interaction of Information Systems and the Organization.” The conference, entitled “Beyond Interpretivism? New Encounters with Technology and Organization,” was held during December from 9–10 at University College Dublin, Ireland.

The Call for Papers resulted in a total of 75 submissions. Of these, 12 full papers, ten panel papers, and 24 poster papers were finally selected for presentation at the working conference. The submissions were selected through a blind review process involving two reviewers and the editors. Authors of submissions that were selected for the next round were requested to revise their contributions in accordance with the reviewers’ and the editors’ recommendations. The revised submissions were then reviewed for publication in this volume. An introductory paper by the editors provides a thematic overview of these papers.

The papers published in this volume are complemented by contributions from the two plenary speakers at the conference: an invited paper from Karin Knorr Cetina (University of Konstanz and the University of Chicago) and a conversation with Tim Ingold (University of Aberdeen) based on his published interviews.

Karin Knorr Cetina is the Otto Borchert Distinguished Service Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of Chicago. Karin’s research has made seminal contributions to the field of science and technology studies (STS). She has conducted major studies on the financial markets, knowledge and information, as well as in globalization, theory, and culture. Her current projects include a book on global foreign exchange markets and on post-social knowledge societies. She continues to do ground-breaking research on the information architecture of financial markets, on their “global microstructures” (the global, social, and cultural form these markets take) and on trader markets in contrast to producer markets. Karin has won numerous awards that acknowledge her original sociological thought including the John Desmond Bernal Prize from the Society for Social Studies of Science for her distinguished contribution.

Tim Ingold is Chair in Social Anthropology at the University of Aberdeen, having previously been the Max Gluckman Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Manchester. In his recent work, he has sought to forge a distinctive approach to understanding the relation, in human social life and experience, between movement, knowledge, and description. This has inspired him to examine the use of lines in culture, and the relationship between anthropology, architecture, art, and design – conceived, in ecological terms, as ways of exploring the relations between human beings and the environments they inhabit. Tim continues to provide provocative, fresh insights into the world of social anthropology and is a pioneer in boundary-crossing within the social sciences. He was elected to a Fellowship of the British Academy in 1997 and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2000.

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