

ALOIS*06, Call for Papers

Action in Language, Organizations, and Information Systems

The theme of the ALOIS-conferences is the action concept, viewed as a primary tool for interpretation, description, explanation, and design. The concrete domain is the interplay between information systems and organizational communication and action.

The conference takes place March 30-31, 2006, in the IT City Katrinebjerg, Aarhus University, Aabogade 34, Aarhus N, Denmark.

The PhD-school BRICS (Basic Research in Computer Science) will arrange a course in activity-based design for PhD students as a pre-conference activity.

The conference is peer-reviewed.

As last year we will pick out a couple of papers for special discussion by appointed discussants.

A selection of revised best papers will be published in *Systems, Signs, and Actions* (<http://www.sysiac.org>)

ALOIS 2006 will be organized for participant interaction. All accepted papers will be given at least 30 minutes each for presentation and discussion. The ALOIS 2006 site can be reached at <http://imv.au.dk/~pba/ALOIS/ALOIS2006home.htm>.

Information about previous conferences is available:

ALOIS 2005: <http://www.alois2005.ul.ie/>

ALOIS 2004 <http://www.vits.se/?pageId=24>

ALOIS 2003 <http://www.vits.se/?pageId=147>

How to submit

Send a full paper (max 7000 words) electronically to (pba@imv.au.dk) no later than December 15, 2005. Submissions should be made as e-mail attachments, preferably in PDF format. (MS Word and RTF formats are acceptable but not preferred.) To facilitate blind review, please provide all contact information on a separate cover page and do not mention authors or affiliations in the body of the paper. Please also include a word count on the cover page.

Background

The complexities of the organizational practice of information systems put demands on research and knowledge as well as on practice. There are many conceptual approaches aiming at describing and explaining these complex phenomena. Where do we find the promising ones? Some approaches emphasize the action concept. Without acknowledging actions, it seems difficult to create good scientific descriptions and explanations. Although such approaches may have differing theoretical perspectives, they have a unifying interest in the action concept and

its explanatory power. Examples of such approaches are activity theory, actor network theory, structuration theory, conversation analysis, and language/action theory.

Together with this interest in action comes an interest in the many related issues, such as knowledge, language, communication, social interaction, social institutions, coordination, artifacts, power, and values.

The purpose of this conference is to bring together researchers and practitioners with an interest in action-theoretic approaches for understanding information systems and their relations to organizations. Building on the three successful ALOIS conferences in 2003, 2004, and 2005 we now arrange the 4th International ALOIS Conference. The aim is to create a fruitful meeting between different action-oriented research traditions.

Important dates

- December 15, 2005. Submission of full papers. Papers should be sent to the conference organizer, Peter Bøgh Andersen, pba@imv.au.dk.
- February 1, 2006. Notification of acceptance.
- February 28, 2006. Revised versions are sent back to the conference (pba@imv.au.dk).
- March, 30-31. Conference.

Examples of topics

Below is a non-exclusive list of possible topics

Organizational studies

- Action within pervasive technologies
- The social interaction in business processes
- Action and communication in organizational coordination and collaboration
- Negotiation and exchange processes in electronic commerce
- Pragmatics of knowledge management
- Management and strategy of organizational change
- IS usage as language games
- IS usage, organizational actions, and organizational effects
- Pragmatic evaluation of information systems

Language and communication

- Work-practice languages and IS development
- Communicative and instrumental actions in organizations

Design methodologies

- “Actability” as a design-criterion
- Learning in IS development
- User-designer interaction in IS development
- Activity-based design
- Acting inside an interface: the design-challenges of pervasive computing:.
- IS, action, and innovation

- The practices of requirements engineering

Theory and method

- Theories of actions and activities
- The notion of “actability”
- Action and physical space
- Action-oriented theories of language and communication
- The technology-society relation in Actor-Network Theory
- Research strategies and methods for pragmatic studies
- Action research methods and action-oriented research frameworks
- Practice epistemologies
- Action-oriented theorization of IT artifacts
- Comparison between different action-theoretic positions