

Qualitative Research Genres in the IS Literature: Emerging Issues and Potential Implications

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Abstract

In this opinion piece, I seek to provide a critical commentary on the arena of qualitative research in the Information Systems discipline. During the presentation, I will attempt to reflect on why reviewer or editorial evaluations of manuscripts, with respect to methodological issues in qualitative studies, often come across as prejudiced. By viewing the adoption of qualitative research in the IS discipline as an evolutionary process, and by highlighting key differences among genres of qualitative manuscripts, a number of implications for both authors and evaluators of qualitative manuscripts emerge. The presentation is likely to be of interest for authors who (like me) are trying very hard to publish their qualitative manuscripts in leading journals and conferences, as well as for scholars who do not necessarily see themselves as qualitative researchers but are nevertheless called upon to evaluate qualitative manuscripts for leading outlets in the discipline.

***BIO:** Suprateek (“Supra”) Sarker is a Professor (Microsoft Chair of Information Systems) at the Copenhagen Business School. His research primarily utilizes qualitative methodologies to study IT-enabled organization change, systems implementation, global IS management, and virtual and mobile collaboration. Suprateek's work has been published in many well-regarded journals and he and his co-author Sundeep Sahay (University of Oslo) received the Stafford Beer Medal from the OR Society, UK for their work on virtual teams published in the European Journal of Information Systems, 2004. He is currently an Associate Editor of the MIS Quarterly, and serves on the editorial boards of a number of journals including the Journal of the AIS, IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management, and IT & People. Recently, he was appointed a Senior Editor of the MIS Quarterly for a three year term starting January 1, 2010.*