

## Editorial to IFIP SELECT, Volume 1, Issue 3

Jan Pries-Heje, Roskilde University, Denmark

*This is the third issue of a new IFIP journal called IFIP SELECT with papers for IT-professionals*

When we initiated this new IFIP journal back in February 2019 the purpose was to increase the outreach and diffusion of some of the excellent research carried out and presented within IFIP's Technical Committees and working groups. However, IFIP decided to do more than just re-publishing excellent research papers. We decided to ask the authors of the papers to write 2-3 pages adding information & discussion on the practice contribution of their research.

This addition written by the authors can be seen as a 'manual' for translating the theory and/or model in the original research paper into utility and use by IT professionals in many countries and many organizations. Hence, if we take a look at translation theory we may be able to get a deeper insight.

The translation theory concept originates in work by Michel Serres and the sociologist Michel Callon that was then incorporated into Bruno Latour's Actor Network Theory (Latour and Callon 1981 see note 6). At the core translation theory does not recognize any independent existence of universal or global ideas as distinct from local ideas. What we might see as a global idea such as a generic method or model is instead seen by translation theory as network of interconnected local ideas. These network of local ideas that inhabited other localities has been called translocal ideas (Czarniawska and Joerges 1996). In translation theory, the distinction between local and global ideas is better described as a distinction between local and translocal ideas (Creed et al. 2002).

Czarniawska and Joerges' (1996) application of how ideas travel from one place to another is focused on their movement across time and space from one local setting to another. Similar to the way that Giddens (1990) describes

how concepts could be disembedded from one context and reimbedded in another, for any idea to travel into a local setting, it must be translated from the form found in its previous local setting

Translation may involve ambiguity and subtle changes to the meaning of structures and practical actions from one local place to another local place. It originates from the "inequivalence" between meanings (and interests) in two different localities: resolving these into through a process of translation that may involve mediation, invention, displacement and revised linkages between concepts (Czarniawska and Joerges 1996, p. 253). In terms of the travelling of models or methods, the translation of their structures and practical actions not only modifies the model or method, but also the individuals who may use the model or method. For example, as the model or method travels to a new locality, its translation may modify the model or method to subtly shift the power relationships between individuals.

So here in your hand – or in front of your eyes - you have issue no. 3 of IFIP Select with three excellent papers each with an addition describing how you can translate the model or method in the paper to another setting i.e. your own.

Jan Pries-Heje

Editor-in-Chief, IFIP SELECT

#### References used

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