THEORY DEVELOPMENT IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH

COURSE OVERVIEW

Program: Ph.D. Program in Information Systems (IS) of the University of Goettingen, Goettingen, Germany.
Schedule: **September 22 and 29, 2022, and October 6 and 11, 2022, 9 am to 12 pm.**
Room: It will be communicated by email to enrolled IS students and scholars.
Instructor: Prof. Dr. Jose Benitez, Full Professor of IS at EDHEC Business School, Lille and Paris, France, jose.benitez@edhec.edu
How can you enroll in this course? Write an email to Prof. Benitez with your name, surname, position, and email expressing your interest in attending the course. Deadline: September 15, 2022, inclusive.

Developing theory has a prominent role to provide an incremental theoretical contribution to IS research. This doctoral course aims to accomplish the following learning outcomes:

1) Understanding the foundations (key elements of a theory and approaches) to build a theory in IS research.
2) Assimilating the alignment between the theoretical arguments and the proposed research model.
3) Knowing how to leverage context in theory building in IS research.
4) Developing the skills to motivate a research problem, formulate a research question, synthesize prior relevant IS literature, build a theory, and specify a model finding consistency between all these key elements.

TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

The course will combine lecturing, class discussions, in-class individual and/or exercise groups, and student presentations. It is expected that IS students and scholars attending the course participate actively in the course's sessions. Enrolled participants will be graded through class engagement (50%) and a final presentation or delivery (50%).

AGENDA

Session	Schedule	Topics	Key references
September 22, 2022	9 am - 12 pm	1. Presentation and organization of the course 2. Foundations of theory building: What theory is and is not	Whetten (1989) Weick (1995) Suddaby (2010) Corley and Gioia (2011) Agerfalk and Karlsson (2020) Leidner (2020)
		3. Strategies to make contributions: Selecting and formulating the problem, phenomenon, and conversations	Weber (2003) Barley (2006) Rai (2017)
September 29, 2022	9 am - 12 pm	Strategies to make contributions: The role of context, maturity of area, research questions through problematization, and empirical materials	Johns (2006) Alvesson and Sandberg (2011) Hong et al. (2013)
October 6, 2022	9 am - 12 pm	1. Techniques to synthesize prior IS literature	Webster and Watson (2002) Feldman (2004) LePine and King (2010)
		2. Writing an empirical paper	Benitez et al. (2018) Baird (2021) My own work-in-progress (R&Rs in FT-50 IS journals)
October 11, 2022	9 am - 12 pm	Concluding remarks on theory development: Practical illustrations, feedback, and attendees' presentations	

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FACULTY MEMBER'S BIO

Jose Benitez is a Full Professor of Management Information Systems at EDHEC Business School, Lille, and Paris, France. His research interests cover the impact of digitalization on companies and individuals, and the development of quantitative research methods. His research has been published in top journals in IS and other Business disciplines such as *MIS Quarterly*, *Journal of Operations Management, Journal of Management Information Systems*, *Journal of the Association for Information Systems*, *European Journal of Information Systems*, *Journal of Information Technology, Information & Management*, *Decision Support Systems*, *Decision Sciences*, and *Journal of Business Research*. Jose's engagement with the IS discipline has been recognized, designating him as an Association for Information Systems Distinguished Member Cum Laude. He currently serves as Senior Editor of the *European Journal of Information Systems*, *Information & Management*, and *Decision Support Systems* and as Associate Editor for the *Journal of the Association for Information Systems*. In addition, Jose has served as Guest Editor of *Decision Sciences*. His teaching interests and instructional expertise cover managing digital business transformation, digital innovation, the business value of digital technologies, IT management, IT strategy, and quantitative research methods at Ph.D., Executive MBA, Global MBA, MIM, and BBA. Jose is a passionate speaker that enjoys working with students, colleagues, and executives. He has provided consulting services and worked on IT development and digital transformation projects with many leading companies in Spain, France, and the USA. Jose can be contacted at jose.benitez@edhec.edu.