



# LUND UNIVERSITY

## Professional desire, competence and engagement in IS context

Bednar, Peter; Welch, Christine

*Published in:*

Achieving Fusion in the Interconnected World: Exploring the connection between organizations and technology

2009

[Link to publication](#)

*Citation for published version (APA):*

Bednar, P., & Welch, C. (2009). Professional desire, competence and engagement in IS context. In G. Piccoli, A. D'Atri, & R. T. Watson (Eds.), *Achieving Fusion in the Interconnected World: Exploring the connection between organizations and technology* (pp. a1-a8). University of Sassari.

*Total number of authors:*

2

### General rights

Unless other specific re-use rights are stated the following general rights apply:

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Read more about Creative commons licenses: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

### Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

LUND UNIVERSITY

PO Box 117  
221 00 Lund  
+46 46-222 00 00

# Professional desire, competence and engagement in IS context

Peter M Bednar<sup>1</sup> and Christine Welch<sup>2</sup>

**Abstract.** This paper attempts to address the failings of a predominant paradigm in IS research and practice that emphasises technological determinism. This paradigm makes use of a false belief in the power of rationality in organizational decision-making, and a mythology in which organizational actors can be viewed as passive ‘users’ of technology. We wish to create a discussion of the nature and role of professionalism as an expression of more than technical competence. Both system analysts and organizational stakeholders (e.g. ‘users’) are to be viewed as professionals. We discuss desire, exercise of will and their role in professional judgment in relation to transcendent values espoused within communities of practice. We go on to relate this to the environments of Information Systems research and practice. It is pointed out that many researchers, over a number of years, have dealt with these issues in relation to effective management of technological development and organizational change. The paper attempts to encourage renewed attention to interpretivist perspectives on IS development and organizational change, including recognition of the importance of contextual dependencies.

---

<sup>1</sup> School of Computing, University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, UK;  
email: [peter.bednar@port.ac.uk](mailto:peter.bednar@port.ac.uk)

<sup>2</sup> Department of Strategy & Business Systems, University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, UK;  
email: [christine.welch@port.ac.uk](mailto:christine.welch@port.ac.uk)