

Introduction

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Biographical notes: Harm-Jan Steenhuis is a Professor of Management at Eastern Washington University. He received his MSc in Industrial Engineering and Management and his PhD in International Technology Transfer from the University of Twente, the Netherlands. He is currently involved in research on international technology transfer and manufacturing, industry-university technology transfer and instructor-student knowledge transfer.

In 2011, the paper ‘PhD supervision: an exploratory study’ was published in *IJIOME* Vol. 4, Nos. 3/4. This paper highlighted the need for more research on PhD programmes because little of it is available. This led to the call for papers for this special section. The purpose was to engage more people in research and to gain additional insight into PhD education in information and operations management and related areas. Unfortunately, but not totally unexpected, the number of submissions was low. This confirms the newness and that few people are carrying out research in this topic area. After the review process, two papers were accepted. Both of these papers are of an exploratory nature which again confirms the newness of the topic area.

The paper ‘The proposed PhD in Technology Management at the University of Bridgeport: a case study’ describes the interesting experiences of the University of Bridgeport on how it developed its new PhD programme in Technology Management. The paper is a case study at the level of a programme. The paper provides descriptive information on PhD programmes in Technology Management as well as the design steps undertaken by the University of Bridgeport. It ends with the major challenges that were faced and a list of lessons that were learned from going through this experience. It will be interesting to see how successful this programme will be in the future.

The paper ‘Observations on quality in the PhD supervision experience’ describes PhD experiences from a supervisor perspective. This is in essence a 19 year longitudinal multiple case study-oriented paper where PhD students represent cases and where the author reflects on the experiences through identifying several key items. The discussion is set-up through a lens of quality by examining the student-supervisor relationship. The paper identifies important variables such as for example how the student selects a supervisor, student expectations, faculty time management, and the interaction between supervisors. This paper provides ample material for both PhD students as well as supervisors to learn from as well. It also offers a good starting point for further research.

Overall, two important conclusions can be drawn from this special section of *IJIOME* Vol. 5, No. 2. First, so far there is limited research in the field of teaching and learning at the level of PhD programmes. Second, the studies presented provide exploratory research that provides interesting insights but they especially offer starting points for further research. All in all, this field is ripe for further research and theory development and the *International Journal of Information and Operations Management Education* has a perfect fit for this type of research. We hope that this special section of the journal will encourage additional research and submissions to *IJIOME* on this important topic area.