

ABSTRACTS**1. PROJECT CONTEXTS AND USE OF AGILE SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT METHODOLOGY IN PRACTICE: A CASE STUDY**

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ABSTRACT

Agile software development methodology consists of a set of agile values, principles and agile practices. Agile values are the philosophy behind agile methods, which are further defined and supported by the agile principles and agile practices. How is agile methodology tailored and used in practice? What factors influence the adoption and use of agile methodology? Using semi-structured interviews and structured observation of the environment (STROBE), we studied a software company in order to gain a deep understanding of organizational use of agile methodology and the factors that facilitate its use. We found that the adoption of agile values is greatly impacted by the organizational culture while the selection and use of agile practices are based on project contextual factors such as the project type, customer characteristics, and team characteristics.

Keywords: *Agile Software Development, System Development Methodology Use, Method Tailoring, Project Management, IS case study*

2. CENTRALLY PLANNED OR DEVELOPMENTAL-ORIENTED STATE: A REVIEW OF THE ETHIOPIAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

After adhering to the required draconian conditions laid out by the multi-lateral financial institutions, more than ever the developing borrowing countries were faced with sharply declining living standards, recurring financial crises, rampant inflation and a resulting high rate of unemployment. Then, a number of African countries halfheartedly and with little or no accountability, or transparency, relinquished total responsibility to their governments to manage and direct their economies. While pursuing the command economic system imitated from socialist countries where by the central governments played a pivotal role in planning and programming, Africa faced by ineffective policies, misuse of abundant resources and went through a deep economic crisis. Therefore to marshal the African continent from deep poverty and rampant unemployment rate, the Economic Commission for Africa challenged the African states to follow the development approach and structurally transform their economies from an agriculture- bound to more industrialized and knowledge-based economy. Though too early to assess the implementation of the Ethiopian Growth and Transformation Plan, following the pattern of logic which the Ethiopian government is functioning, it is rather very difficult to assume that current Ethiopia is an example of a market-friendly developmental state rather the regime appears to be pursuing a centrally-planned economic system.

Keywords: *neo-liberal open economy, democratically-nested, market-friendly developmental state, structural transformation, Economic Commission for Africa, Growth and Transformation Plan*

3. MORE DISCLOSURE = BETTER CSR REPUTATION? AN EXAMINATION OF CSR REPUTATION LEADERS AND LAGGARDS IN THE GLOBAL OIL & GAS INDUSTRY

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ABSTRACT

This paper contributes to the scholarship of CSR and sustainability reporting by testing whether greater data availability about companies leads to their having better CSR reputations and possibly CSR performance. The authors begin with a brief literature review to develop the hypothesis that greater data availability may be correlated with having a positive CSR reputation. The authors choose the international energy industry as a focus, since these companies were early adopters of sustainability reporting and have the potential to have widespread and either very good or very bad reputations. Leaders and laggards in terms of perceived CSR performance within this industry are identified using scores generated by CSR Hub, a reputation aggregation service. A regression test is performed and the results indicate a significant positive relationship: the more data is available about a company in the international oil and gas industry, the better its CSR reputation tends to be. Since this study only considers availability of data, and not the quality or content of information, the key finding appears consistent with the old adage that "any publicity is good publicity." The authors also share some observations about the characteristics of the reputational leaders and laggards and their reputations across various aspects of CSR. For example, consistent with previous findings, CSR reputation leaders are found to be older and larger, while laggards are newer and smaller. The authors conclude with a discussion of implications for managers and scholars and potentially fruitful future veins of inquiry.

Keywords: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Oil and Gas Industry, Energy Industry, International Business, Corporate Governance, Sustainability, Sustainability Reporting, Disclosure, Reputation

4. TECHNOLOGY RELATED ROLE OVERLOAD AND WORK-TO-FAMILY CONFLICT: THE MODERATING ROLE OF SUPERVISOR AND COWORKER TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

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INTRODUCTION

Technology use in the workplace has allowed individuals to capitalize on resources, efficiencies, and connectivity to be more productive. However, technology-intensive workers are more likely to experience role overload and work exhaustion (Moore, 2000), and use of technology has led to increasingly permeable boundaries between the work and nonwork domains (e.g., Ragu-Nathan, Tarafdar, Ragu-Nathan, & Tu, 2008).

5. NONPROFIT WEBSITES: ADOPTION AND TYPE IN DIVISION 1 OF THE CENSUS

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ABSTRACT

The authors review the issues confronting nonprofit organizations, the adoption rate of websites, and the website types chosen by nonprofits. The impact of the size of organization and organizational focus upon optimal website format are discussed. An analysis is done on a sample of 101 organizations from division 1 of the census. The managerial implications address possible ways to optimize the use of resources for small and large organizations.

Keywords: *Nonprofit, Church, Website, Internet Search Strategy*

6. THE MONEY DEMAND BEHAVIOR UNDER THE INFLATION TARGETING FRAMEWORK IN THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research is to investigate the money demand behavior under inflation targeting framework in Thailand. The major research question of the research is that whether there exist a stable long run and short run equilibrium relationship between real money demand (M1 or M2) and their determinants in Thailand after adopted the inflation targeting as a monetary framework of monetary policy. A co integration analysis and the Vector Error Correction Model (VECM) are conducted on quarterly data over 2001Q1 to 2010Q1. The results indicate that there exists a long run equilibrium relationship between real money demand (both M1 and M2) and its determinants: real income, exchange rates, and external interest rates

Keywords: *Money Demand, Inflation Targeting, Monetary Policy, Vector Error Correction Model*

7. THE ROLE OF LABOR FORCE TRANSITION PROBABILITIES IN DETERMINING GENDER-SPECIFIC EMPLOYMENT RESPONSES TO MONETARY POLICY SHOCKS

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ABSTRACT

We combine established VAR and Markov Chain methods to better understand gender differences in the impact of monetary policy on the equilibrium unemployment rate. Labor force transition probabilities determine the unemployment rate. We find that monetary policy shocks have differing impacts on male and female labor force transition probabilities; these differences in turn cause the unemployment rates of men and women to respond differently to a monetary policy shock. Specifically, males experience a considerably larger increase in the probability of moving from the employed to the unemployed state, and from not in the labor force to the unemployed state. These differing probabilities of moving into the unemployed state account for the vast majority of the gender differences of monetary policy shocks on unemployment rates.

Keywords: Gender differences, unemployment rates, impact of monetary policy, VAR models

8. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF LIFE EXPECTANCY: A CROSS-COUNTRY ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to explore several socio-economic factors associated with life expectancy at birth and to identify several characteristics of life expectancy at birth and the influencing factors in European countries. Using quantitative secondary data collected from statistical databases and regression and correlation analysis and principal components analysis, as statistical methods, this paper shows that there is a close relationship between life expectancy and socio-economic factors. There is a positive correlation between life expectancy at birth as a dependent variable and health expenditure per capita, GNI per capita, education opportunities, good governance, healthy environment and gender equality, as independent variables and a negative correlation between life expectancy and population growth. Also, the performed analyses show large discrepancies among European countries in the analyzed variables.

Keywords: Life expectancy, Socio-economic factors, Correlation analysis, Multiple regression, Principal components analysis, European countries.

9. WHEN DO PURCHASE PALS ACTIVELY ASSIST OTHERS?

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores when an individual who plays the roles of purchase pals shops with others, when/why s/he assists others - what factors influence the assisting behaviors of purchase pals, important issues that have not been clearly addressed in existing retail research. As an initial step to understand the behaviors of purchase pals, this paper explores the issues on the basis of the Stimulus-Organism-Response (SOR) framework and develops a theoretical model which includes two stimuli (enduring involvement and attractiveness of retail mix), the organism factor (shopping pleasure), and the responses (assisting behaviors). Respondents to a retrospective online survey address questions on these issues.

Findings from the study suggest that enduring involvement is directly and positively associated with assisting behaviors, while attractiveness of retail mix indirectly influence assisting behaviors through shopping pleasure. Additionally, the surrounding retail mix has the strongest positive impact on shopping pleasure. In line with the S-O-R framework, shopping pleasure mediates the impact of the antecedents on assisting behaviors of purchase pals.

Keywords: *Purchase Pals, Shopping Companions, Assisting Behaviors, Helping Behaviors, Joint-shopping*

10. THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE AMORTIZATION METHOD TO THE ESTIMATION OF THE CASH FLOWS FROM THE USE OF FIXED ASSETS– STUDY CASE APPLIED TO THE GROUPS OF SOCIETIES WITHIN THE EUROPEAN SPACE

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ABSTRACT:

This paper sets out to test the mathematical model concerning the contribution of the amortization method to generating future cash flows from the use of both tangible and intangible fixed assets. The action was initiated out of the necessity to identify new working tools available to the Romanian professional accountants regarding the implementation of the international financial reporting standards (IFRS) that use notions such as future cash flows from the use fixed assets, discount rate, recoverable value, fair value etc. without always providing the practical tools for modeling these aggregates. The model's testing was carried out on a sample of 47 societies within the domains of transportation, logistics and respectively durable development within the French and European area.

Keywords: *cash flow, discount rate, professional reasoning, prognosis range*

11. THE RELATIONSHIP AMONG ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITMENT, SELF-EFFICACY AND BUSINESSES PERFORMANCE: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF HOTEL BUSINESSES IN THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to examine the impact of organizational commitment, self-efficacy and businesses performance by using employees of firms in hotel businesses as the sample. Organizational commitment is key determinant of businesses performance. This research attempts to link organizational behavior to businesses performance by hypothesizing the positive relationship. The conceptual model is tested using data collected from survey of 240 firms in hotel businesses of Thailand. The results present that organizational commitment have significantly positive influence on self-efficacy and businesses performance. Also, self-efficacy has significantly positive influence on businesses performance. Finally, the results indicated that self-efficacy is mediating effect of relationship between organizational commitment and businesses performance. Therefore, the employees of firms in hotel businesses of Thailand with greater organizational commitment explicitly tended to have a stronger businesses performance via self-efficacy as a mediating variable. Theoretical and managerial contributions are explicitly provided and limitations of the current study and suggestions for further research are introduced.

Keywords: *Organizational Commitment; Self-efficacy; Businesses Performance; Side-bet Theory; Social Cognitive Theory*

12. A REEXAMINATION OF THE EFFECT OF DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME CHANGES ON U.S. STOCK RETURNS

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ABSTRACT

We examine the effect of daylight saving time changes on U.S. stock returns for the period January 2001 to December 2010. Utilizing CRSP value-weighted and equally-weighted equity indices, our results indicate that daylight saving weekends are not significantly lower than that of other weekends. Furthermore, our significance results remained consistent when we separated our data by fall and spring daylight saving time changes for comparisons. We therefore conclude that the daylight saving time changes does not impact the U.S. stock market.

Keywords: *daylight saving time, market efficiency, market anomalies, stock returns*

13. A QUARTERLY EXPLANATORY MODEL OF UNITED STATES INFLATION: 1946-2010

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ABSTRACT

We use statistical models and regression techniques to test various theoretical explanations and hypothesis that are proposed to have causal effect on inflation. We deploy quarterly US macroeconomic variables to empirically test theories and establish a relationship between those macroeconomic variables and core inflation. We conclude that Unemployment levels and change in Real GDP have no significant effect on inflation in the Consumer price index, whereas increase in money supply and high capacity utilization levels do have a statistically significant effects on Inflation.

Keywords: *Inflation, Quantitative theory of money, Consumer Price index, Capacity utilization*

14. THE EFFECTS OF CENTRALITY AND PROMINENCE OF NODES IN THE ONLINE SOCIAL NETWORK ON WORD OF MOUTH BEHAVIORS

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Dekui Li, Kwangwoon University, South Korea

ABSTRACT

This study introduces two sociometric variables, i.e. centrality and prominence, and their interaction effect as the proxies of online opinion leadership and the determinants of the online word-of-mouth (WOM) behaviors. The sociometric data was derived from the database of a social network website headquartered in China. The dependent variables, i.e. neutral WOM, positive WOM, and negative WOM. The results exhibit the relationship between the independent and dependent variables. The online opinion leader plays a significant role in WOM diffusion through their contacts in the network. However, it is more likely that negative WOM is disseminated more than positive and neutral WOM. Discussions and implications are also included in the study.

Keyword: *Social Network, Sociometric Data, Word-of-Mouth, neutral Word-of-Mouth, positive Word-of-Mouth, negative Word-of-Mouth, Online Marketing, Opinion Leadership*

15. RELIGION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to show that there are some correlations between Romanian villages' development level and their structure from the religious affiliation viewpoint. Data about religious affiliation was collected during the 2002 census. Statistical information regarding Romanian villages' development level was provided by Sandu (2009) based on a methodology similar to Human Development Index (HDI). The analysis is a quantitative one and the correlations were validated using the Hi square test.

Keywords: religion, rural development, Romania, quantitative methods, village development index (VDI)

16. THE INFLUENCE OF CHANGING POPULATION STRUCTURE BY GENDER AND AGE ON THE CAPITAL MARKET INDICATORS: A ROMANIAN CASE

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ABSTRACT

Numerous studies have tried to model the connection between the structure of population and the financial markets, showing the possibility of a future meltdown in the financial markets, via lower savings and investments given the reaching of the baby-boom cohorts at the age of retirement. In general the research has focused on the case of more industrialized countries, where the aging phenomenon is more felt in the present. The case of Central and Eastern European countries was somehow left aside, although the issue of aging should be an important one, considering also the current state of developing CEE capital markets. Our empirical work, based on the Romanian experience, suggests also that the demographic dynamics have had a detectable impact on the domestic stock market.

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