



The Swedish Research School of Management and Information Technology

All former Ph.D. candidates from the Research School of Management and Information Technology (MIT) that have ended their participation at the research school with a licentiate or doctoral degree receive this bi-annual letter. The Alumni Letter offers information about MIT activities, alumni members, and other information related to the research school. Peter Ekman*, MIT Deputy Dean and Alumni Letter Editor, appreciates alumni information that can be of interest to its readership ■

Alumni Letter

2018:1

MIT Thesis Number 100

The research school got its 100th alumni May 25 when *Emilene Leite* defended her thesis *Complexity in the 'Extended' Business Network: A Study of Business, Social, and Political relationships in Smart City Solutions* at Uppsala University.

Emilene, how does it feel to defend the research school's thesis number 100?

I feel great! It is such an honor to be the research school's thesis number 100. I am happy to take part of a fantastic and traditional research school. I am also very grateful. The collection and empirical material for this thesis benefitted from much assistance from MIT, which financed part of the data collection in Brazil and also all of the conferences at which I presented papers over these years. I am very pleased to have defended my dissertation last May, 25th and now I feel prepared for new challenges and opportunities in the academic setting.

Can you briefly describe the research behind your thesis?

Building on the network perspective, the purpose of the thesis is to understand how interactions between business, social and political actors influence the development of smart city solutions. In specific, this study investigates the influence of socio-political actors on firms' cooperative and competitive

behavior as well as firms' decisions on resource allocation. In addition, it provides a practical perspective and suggests that interaction with socio-political actors, such as nongovernmental organizations and public officials and politicians, has important competitive implications to firms. Hence, reaching success in the relationship entails finding a balance between economic and social needs.



Emilene Liete, Uppsala University

Looking back as a Ph.D. student at the national research school, what has been the most memorable moment?

The MIT research school has offered me many unforgettable moments. I have learned a lot by attending the conferences. The research school is indeed a valuable platform for knowledge development.

Examples include: providing and receiving feedback from colleagues, opportunities to share my own ideas but also to get access to new ideas. A memorable moment was a feedback I received from *Henrik Sällberg* (a MIT Alumni at Blekinge Institute of Technology) that helped to improve one of the papers of my thesis. We discussed the paper in the conference track but the discussion extended throughout the MIT dinner. I was lucky to have sit next to him during the dinner because I got even more insights on how the paper could be developed. The paper is now published. In the overall, I affirm that the intellectual exchanges and academic insights experienced through the MIT conferences have impacted my research work and journey as a researcher. In addition to that, I have had a lot of fun by meeting many Ph.D. students and senior researchers from different Swedish universities. Such a network will be of utmost value in my future career.

Good luck with your future research!

Thanks ■

MITSC2018 at LTH, Lund

This year the Swedish Research School of Management & Information Technology (MIT) had its spring conference at Lund University, Faculty of Engineering LTH.

The conference attracted +50 Ph.D. candidates and +30 senior faculty that engaged in constructive dialogue during three days. Keynotes and panel discussions spanned; becoming a balanced scholar, additive manufacturing, academic career development, getting access to data, and ehealth. Ph.D. candidates that defended their thesis manuscripts included:

- *Kajsa Ahlgren*, Lund University, Ph.D. manuscript titled 'Travelling business models: on bringing business models for sustainability to new contexts.'
- *Lennart Haglund*, Mälardalen University, Lic. manuscript titled 'Affärsrelationer i affärsnätverk på den svenska elmarknaden.'
- *Bertil Lindenfolk*, Jönköping University, Ph.D. manuscript titled 'Elderly's perceived value of Ambient Assisted Living services: Lessons from two R&D projects.'
- *Ilse Svensson de Jong*, Lund University, Lic. manuscript titled 'Explorative study on Measurement of Innovation.'

This was also the first conference where a 'Best reviewer' diploma was awarded; a price that was shared by Ph.D. candidates *Chelsey Jo Huisman* and *Cristina Ghita*, both from Uppsala University ■



Alumni Letter

MIT Alumni Update

MIT Alumn Eva Maanien-Olsson, where are you now?

I am now at the heart of Texas, at McCoy School of Business Administration at Texas State University (TSU) in San Marcos. Texas State University was established in 1899. Texas State University-San Marcos is situated 30 minutes south of Austin. Both San Marcos and Austin are vibrant cities, with a significant influx of people from all around the world. Texas is considered to be one of the states in the U.S. that has the most rapid growth, and it is exciting to be here in this moment of time.

What do you do now?

I am at TSU as a visiting scholar at McCoy School of Business. My objective for being here is to spend my sabbatical at a university abroad, and thereby get inspiration and new insights regarding research, and also higher education in a broader sense. Besides of having an opportunity to focus on research, my goal is to establish a collaboration with TSU and thereby create possibilities for not only me but for faculty members both at Mälardalen University and TSU that have an interest in international collaboration in research and teaching. It is truly inspiring to meet new people, discuss opportunities and to be part of a journey that, I believe, will enhance and contribute to our students' global perspective throughout our curriculum.

The intention with my stay is also to provide opportunities for additional inter-national exchanges and partnerships through joint courses, international internships and projects, faculty development, and last but not the least, research. I would encourage everyone to spend an extended period abroad. It has been a fantastic journey, and I have been able to grow both academically and personally. ■

Eva Maanien-Olsson (right) with collogues at the Texas State University Leadership Conference



Why not revitalize your relationship with the research school?

Did you know that MIT alumni who want to participate at the MIT bi-annual conference can get their travel and hotel cost covered? Have you continued insights from research or do you have experiences from being in the industry that you like to share? Or do you have a general interest in what the current MIT Ph.D. candidates study? Contact the research school's Dean *Christina Keller*** for information about such support ■

Participating Universities

Host University



Associated Universities

