

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

2018:2

Christmas Greetings News

This fall, Emma Stendal defended her thesis “Headquarters’ involvement in managing subsidiaries” at Stockholm University.

Emma, how does it feel to defend the research school’s thesis number 106?

Fantastic, thanks! Accomplishing this Ph.D. has been an incredibly rewarding but challenging journey. The MIT Research School has played an important role in inspiring, guiding and supporting me in writing my thesis. I am very grateful for the MIT community, their passion for research has been contagious and motivational. I am grateful to have had that opportunity to enjoy such an excellent research environment and to have met some wonderful people.

Can you briefly describe your Ph.D. study?

This thesis aims to advance our knowledge of headquarters’ involvement in managing its subsidiaries. Within the administrative role, I examine coordination and control activities, and within the entrepreneurial role, I examine the process of developing and implementing management innovations and facilitating factors. The thesis draws on a single longitudinal case study of the development and implementation of a new performance management practice by a European MNC within the construction industry. During the

fieldwork, I gathered empirical material from observations and interviews as well as secondary data. This thesis contributes to the literature on headquarters’ involvement in managing subsidiaries by suggesting a collaborative approach to subsidiary engagement and participation.

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

It is difficult to pick one memorable moment! Again, I would say the MIT conferences. The bi-annual conferences have been very important to me in terms of testing out my initial research ideas and presenting more finalized papers. It was very useful to receive feedback from senior academics as well as Ph.D. students outside the SBS environment. MIT conferences are such a valuable forum for exchanging knowledge and research related experiences as well as for networking.

What will you do next?

I am now living in Ireland and working as a post-doc at *University College Dublin* (UCD). I am part of the ‘MISFIRES’ project, which is an EU H2020 European Research Council project on market failures in healthcare. Just briefly, the project aims to make healthcare markets more participatory and to innovate together for better markets.

The MISFIRES project investigates problems and concerns in biomedical markets, such as overpricing, limited access to medicines and data privacy issues, and research how alternative markets or market instruments could be conceived to solve these problems. The overall objective of MISFIRES is to guide new academic and policy thinking by establishing what research can do to make markets more inclusive and to open them up to the concerns of those who feel let down by them. I am very proud of being part of such a talented, interesting and ambitious research project.

Good luck with your future research!

Thanks a lot. Exciting times ahead!



Emma Stendal, UCD.

MITFC2018 at UU, Visby

This year the Swedish Research School of Management & Information Technology (MIT) had its fall conference at Uppsala University Campus Visby.

The conference did once again attract a large group of Ph.D. students and their supervisors discussing papers. This time a new activity – *Meet a senior* – was introduced. The idea with the activity is to have breakfast, fika or take a walk with a senior of the Ph.D. student’s choice and get input on their work. There was also a pre-lic defended by Fredrik Lindeberg, Lindköping University, titled “Internet Coordination: An ecology perspective.” The Best reviewer diploma was awarded to Daniel Skog, Umeå university ■

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 ■



Alumni Letter

MIT Alumni Update

Hi Leon Caesarius – the MIT Alumni at Uppsala University who designed our research school’s logotype (seen above) – what are you doing now?

I am currently writing on a book on the meaning of digitalization, continuing with my colleague Jukka Hohenthal where we left off with our previous book. There are so many exciting issues and aspects of this phenomenon that have not been touched upon yet, we are barely scratching the surface within our field. Hopefully, we will be able to make a small contribution.

Can you tell us what inspired our logotype?

When I first heard about the idea of establishing a research school from my supervisor Lars Engwall I found it to be both an excellent and exciting idea. During my first year as a doctoral student, I had come across other types of research schools that Uppsala University was part of but none within our field, or, if you wish, fields. While Sweden, as a country, was heralded as one of the front-runners in IT and with many internationally successful scholars, we lacked a foundation that would help bring about a steady addition of new, young researchers to the field. The MIT was, therefore, a great solution; the pulling together of intellectual and other resources to create such a foundation.

Having previously worked with graphic design I began developing the logotype. The inspiration needed came from the two people that made the MIT to what it is today: Birger Rapp, the first director of MIT and Lars Engwall, the first chairman. During a break at one of the early board meetings, Birger jokingly said to me “We are putting together stars to make all of you Ph.D. students stars in your fields.” Meanwhile, Lars Engwall always emphasized and promoted inclusivity and diversity while respecting independence. We have seen the outcome of that in the increasing number of participating institutions, the diverse research areas, and Ph.D. students’ background and in the plurality of the finished product. I, therefore, ended up elaborating on a logotype that combined symbols and letters. The symbol having the form of a star that in itself was comprised of seven stars, all different in form and angle from the viewer’s perspective, all independent yet together. The seven stars represented the original seven institutions involved in forming the MIT. Together they represent something new, a single star, you, the Ph.D. student becoming a new researcher and contributor to your field. Underneath the “star,” the acronym “MIT,” set in heavy Helvetica style typeface to represent a firm foundation. Why orange in color? It stands for safety and stability. Some scientists claim orange stars have safer habitable zones.

Do you have any fun memory from your time as a Ph.D. student at the research school?

I have many fun memories. I remember flying to Gotland early in the morning with my friend and colleague to attend a course or a meeting. We were MIT’s first batch, a group of people with diverse backgrounds that became good friends. The plane was small with two seats on each side of the aisle. I was seated in the right seat of the aisle and my friend on the left side. To his left was a gentleman at the window seat minding his own business. During the flight, I noticed that my friend engaged in a long monolog but the noise of the engines left me clueless as to what he was talking about for so long. When we landed, my friend looked both excited and satisfied. He told me he tried to explain to the gentleman what research is all about. “I think he is American. He was very kind and listened. I think he understood”, my friend said. Our course began a few hours later. Following a brief introduction, the coordinating professor then introduced the special guest, a famous IS professor from the US. He looked very familiar – to both me and to my friend ■

Participating Universities

Host University



Associated Universities



Linnæus University

