

# The Swedish Research School of Management and Information Technology

Alumni Letter

2019:2

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 ■

## Christmas Greetings News

**Congratulations, Dr. Mirella Muhic, one of our latest alumni. Tell us about your thesis that you defended this autumn!**

Digitalization is not only a transient trend but a new era that is here to stay and change the way companies work, organize, and develop. Using the cloud or not using the cloud is a non-issue; the problem is how to stay in the cloud and develop innovations based on the opportunities offered by digitalization. This is what I discuss in my thesis – *Transition to Cloud Sourcing: Innovation and Competitive Advantage* – where I study different companies' adoption of the cloud, what strategic and organizational challenges they encounter, and what opportunities for innovation are revealed. It is one thing to talk about using the cloud and quite another to move an organization's entire internal IT systems to the cloud, not all companies succeed in "cloud sourcing." Contrary to what many people believe, it is not just about technical challenges. Cloud sourcing means also being in a relationship with several different cloud partners.

**What is your best memory from the research school?**

The networking and all the people that I got to know, and that became my friends over the

years. Some of my best friends are from MIT, friendship, and collegiality that has evolved even after defending my thesis. The friends I made at MIT have been a great support during my Ph.D. student years and still are. Also, though we are spread across the country at different universities, we keep in touch

regularly between the MIT meetings. We always look forward to the next MIT meeting to meet, share knowledge, and have fun together. That is absolutely enriching. I would say that I made friends for life at MIT, which is also some of the best moments of my Ph.D. journey.



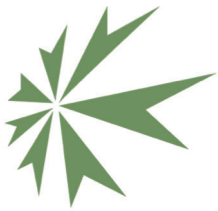
## What happens next?

Having successfully defended my Ph.D. thesis, I continue to develop my academic career. At the moment, I work on two research projects that I received grants for from Vinnova. They are both within my competence area of digitalization, innovation, and competitive advantage in the context of circular economy and retail innovation. I have two journal publications coming up and I am also in the process of writing new papers linked to the abovementioned projects. Besides that, I teach and supervise students, which is something that I enjoy very much!

## Good luck!

Thank you! I hope to see you at MIT as alumni and wishing a continuous successful network. ■

◀ Mirella Muhic  
Photo: Erik Andersson



Alumni Letter

#4

MITAC2019 at Uppsala University

At this spring conference Tanja Mäki-Runsas (Örebro University) had a mid-seminar for her thesis manuscript "Information Systems Development Method Cargo Cult Theory: Towards uncovering the phenomenon from an agile context." Robin Teigland, Professor of Strategy and Management of Digitalization, at Chalmers gave a keynote. There was also a panel on "Career paths after the dissertation defense." Fredrik Tell moderated this section with discussants Steffi Siegert, Petter Ahlström and Jason Crawford – all alumni of the research school. During the Gala Dinner, that took place at Festvåning Nedre Slotts, Sebastian Dehling (Karlstad University) and Oscar Lundberg (Umeå University) received the awards for best reviewers at MITAC2019. ■

MIT Alumni Update

*In this alumni letter, we also interview one of the first PhDs from the research school.*

**Hi Niklas Johansson – you were the research school's first licentiate in 2004 and defended your Ph.D. thesis in 2007. What have you done since then?**

I worked as a consultant for WSP for the first three years and was then recruited to Viktoria Swedish ICT in 2011. After four years, I got a new position at Interactive Institute Swedish ICT, which has been my workplace since then. Lately, I work under the large research organization RISE, which is a merger of several former research institutes, amongst other the former Viktoria Institute and Interactive Institute.

**You have continued with research, but in another context than the academy. What would you say is the major difference between the two environments?**

Direct value to the customer. The results often need to be valuable right now, but sometimes the result is an article just like academia. We are supposed to be between academia and the business side. Sometimes we are closer to academia and sometimes closer to the business side.



Niklas Johansson  
RISE



"RISE is a unique mobilisation of resources to increase the pace of innovation in our society. By gathering a number of research institutes and over a hundred test beds and demonstration environments under the umbrella of a single innovation partner, we create improved conditions for society's problem solvers." (from www.ri.se)

**Was there any specific skills that the research school gave you that has been of use at RISE?**

As doctoral student at the research school, I got a great education and good understanding of research!

**Finally, do you have any good anecdotes from your time at the research school?**

I have many great memories from the research school. I will never forget the moment my class met for the first time. So exciting and intellectual, but also somewhat competitive and confusing. I tried hard not to reveal my anxiety and fear of not being good enough. I believe the good atmosphere in the class made us all learn from each other's mistakes and grow slowly into a completely new setting. I am really happy to be part of the first class that defended their theses at the National Research School of Management and Information Technology!

**Thanks for the interview!**

Thank you, Peter! ■

The National Research School of Management and Information Technology Universities

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