



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 ■



Christmas Greetings

Carin Lindskog is one of our latest alumni. She defended her thesis “Tensions experienced and balancing strategies used in Agile Software Development environments” at the Karlstad University December 2, 2022.

Congratulations Carin – can you give me a brief description of your dissertation?

My dissertation is about identifying, visualizing, and discussing contradictions, the source of the perceived tensions, because then we also have the opportunity to balance and react to them. If contradictions are made visible and tensions are discussed, it becomes possible to examine issues and difficulties in implementing and working with Agile Software Development projects. This new understanding can support policymakers and stakeholders in capturing and categorizing contradictions and in examining the issues and difficulties in implementing and understanding what Agile Software Development really means.

How has being part of our graduate school affected your doctoral studies?

The Swedish Research School of Management and Information Technology (MIT) has had a very big impact on both me and my dissertation. Five years is a long time and MIT have had clear interim goals (courses

and biannual conferences) which have contributed to my dissertation work progressing. In addition, the feedback and knowledge I received from other Ph.D. students, alumni, and supervisors are of the utmost importance. Meeting other Ph.D. students is so important in the often-lonely work. Furthermore, my curiosity about tensions and ambidexterity began during a doctoral course held by MIT called *Management, Organization and ICT*. The more I read about tensions between exploitation and exploration and ambidexterity, the more curious I became.

What are your plans now?

Soon me and three colleagues will submit a “HÖG” application to the “KK-stiftelsen”. I hope to continue doing research, but together in a research group. Otherwise, I am also looking forward to engage more in teaching and meeting the students to a greater extent than in the last five years.

Besides researching the intersection of management and information systems – what do most people not know about Carin?

I am not only a recent Ph.D. I am also the grandmother of Bosse who is 2 ½ years old. Being “here and now” and getting to explore the world together with him is something I am looking forward to.



Many thanks for your time and good luck with all your plans!

Thank you, Peter, for the important work you and the rest of the management team do. I would like to wish you and the MIT community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New MIT Year ■

◀ Dr. Carin Lindskog, Karlstad University

The last conference

MITAC2022 was hosted by Uppsala University. Sarah Kaplan, Professor and Director of the Institute for Gender and the Economy (GATE) at Toronto’s Rotman School of Management, was invited for this year’s Uppsala Lecture where she held two keynotes: *Innovation as a social problem: How organizations participate in and respond to technological change* and *Social problems as an innovation challenge: How stakeholder trade-offs can be a source of transformation*. Another keynote was Professor Frank Hartmann from Radboud University who gave the lecture *Accountability in the age of AI*. The conference also held a conversation where Jan Lindvall and Lars Engwall discussed Engwall’s latest book *Tillbakablickar*. The conference did also offer a sightseeing at Old Uppsala as well as a great gala dinner at Odinsborg where Kristin Svärd, Karlstad University, received the ‘Best Reviewer Award’ ■



Alumni Letter

Our most recent alumni

Kevin Walther defended his thesis "Digital internationalization of SMEs: A phenomenon-based study on the video game industry" at the Uppsala University December 9, 2022.

Hi Kevin – you are our research school's latest alumni. Can you give me a brief description of your thesis?

I am investigating digital internationalization of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in the video games industry. In my thesis I have focused on three phenomena linked to digital internationalization in that context which are the prevalence of born global firms, online community engagement, and the digital platforms in the industry. The overall findings of this thesis reveal a new type of digital platforms that are lifting this industry into further heights, an interesting interplay of SME game developers and digital giants owning the significant platforms in the industry. Moreover, the findings highlight an extraordinary level of interaction between game developers and their online communities.

How has the research school influenced your PhD studies?

I think the MIT research school has helped me a lot in my pursuit to build a bridge between business theories and my context. Firstly, the courses offered by the research school have helped me to look at my context



▲ Dr. Kevin Walther, Uppsala University

from another perspective than a sheer international business theory lens. Secondly, presenting my work at the MIT conferences helped me to get perspectives and feedback from other MIT scholars with a different theoretical background. This has guided in my inquiry to write my dissertation somehow as a connection between business theory and digital industry context. The MIT research school as such that is trying to promote research in the intersection of management and information system has eased therefore the path for me to conduct

research in an intersection of business theories and a digital industry context.

What are your plans now?

I am leaving academia (for now). I have been offered a position at a consultancy in my home country Switzerland. I am keen to start there beginning of next year and applying the skills that I have learned as a researcher in an industry context. Some colleagues and one supervisor of mine that have been working in consulting firms have already shared with me their experience on working as a consultant outside of academia. So, I hope I am prepared for the professional differences but also the similarities of working as an industry consultant and being an academic researcher.

And finally, besides being a researcher, what do most people not know about you?

Well, I think most people know that I try to keep up a relatively healthy lifestyle and do a lot of exercise. People who didn't know me before my Ph.D. might be surprised that this wasn't that much the case prior to my Ph.D. studies. Early in my Ph.D. I started the routine of going regularly to the downstairs gym in Ekonomikum when I got tired of doing work. I soon realized that doing any sort of physical activity helped me to stay motivated on my daily work and helped me a lot mentally. I started to see moving myself or working out in any form as part of my actual work as a doctoral student. Or as the

MITSC23

The next conference that will take place in the spring, is planned to be hosted by Mälardalen University April 18-20, 2023. Alumni who are interested in participating (and potentially be chairs at a track) can be supported with travel and hotel. Please, contact Golondrian for more information (golondrian.janke@fek.uu.se) ■



Latin proverb says: "*Mens sana in corpore sano*" (a sound mind in a sound body). Although I do not entirely agree with that proverb, I think this motto helped me at least to the time of my Ph.D. when I was struggling the most and felt extremely inefficient.

Thanks for this interview and good luck with your new role as a consultant!

Many thanks, and I want to thank you Peter and everyone involved in the MIT research school for the supportive environment that this research school has established ■

Host institution



Associated institutions

