



Dipartimento Impresa, Ambiente e Management

Research workshop*
giovedì 8 marzo 2007, ore 10:30 - Aula 0.09

Educing theory from practice

Richard Baskerville
Georgia State University
baskerville@acm.org

This workshop explores the discovery of new or enhanced theory within the action research process. Action research is an empirical research method with two purposes: (1) to solve an immediate practical problem, and (2) to develop new scientific knowledge. Action research projects sometimes succeed at the first, but fail at the second. The highly practical nature of action research sometimes leads to results that have little to contribute in terms of new scholarly knowledge. Although a difficult practical problem may have been resolved, academic publications will often reject reports of the results because the theoretical value is trivial. Action research that encounters difficulties in the attempts to employ existing theory in resolving an immediate practical problem is a more promising venue for developing new or enhanced theory. The most valuable venues for action research lie in the intractable problems of practice, problems that existing knowledge cannot seem to fix.

Richard L. Baskerville is professor of information systems and past chairman in the Department of Computer Information Systems, Robinson College of Business, Georgia State University. His research specializes in security of information systems, methods of information systems design and development, and the interaction of information systems and organizations. His interest in methods extends to qualitative research methods. Baskerville is the author of *Designing Information Systems Security* (J. Wiley) and more than 100 articles in scholarly journals, professional magazines, and edited books. He is an editor for *The European Journal of Information Systems* and serves on the editorial boards of *The Information Systems Journal*, *Journal of Information Systems Security*, and the *International Journal of E-Collaboration*. Baskerville holds degrees from the University of Maryland (B.S. *summa cum laude*, Management), and the London School of Economics, University of London (M.Sc., Analysis, Design and Management of Information Systems, Ph.D., Systems Analysis).

**Il Dipartimento Impresa Ambiente e Management, promotore e principale sostenitore dell'iniziativa che ha reso possibile la visita del Prof. Baskerville, ringrazia l'Ateneo, il Dipartimento di Scienze Economiche e il Dipartimento Istituzioni, Metodi Quantitativi e Territorio per il loro contributo.*