

Open Source Software: Bridging Theoretical and Methodological Perspectives

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Summary of OSS PDWs

Two part PDW:

- 1. 8:20-9:50: Research Development Workshop**
- 2. 10:00-11:30: Overview of research best practice**

Originally planned for 8:00-noon

Plan for the Workshop (1)

Time	Session	Participants
10:00- 10:10	Introduction	Joel West
10:10- 10:40	Panel: Risks and Rewards of an Interdisciplinary Approach to Open Source Research	Katherine Stewart Siobhán O'Mahony Mikko Välimäki

Plan for the Workshop (2)

Time	Session	Participants
10:40- 10:55	Tutorial: Data Sources for OSS Research	James Howison
10:55- 11:25	Panel: Getting Your Work Published	Rick Watson Georg von Krogh Mani Subramani
11:25- 11:30	Summary & Conclusions	Kevin Crowston

Introduction

- **Joel West, San José State University**

What is “Free”/“Open Source” Software?

- 1. An ideology/social movement**
- 2. An IP license**
- 3. A software production method**
- 4. Community governance**
- 5. An MIS alternative**
- 6. A vendor business strategy**

Open Source Software Licenses

“Open Source”

MIT, BSD, Apache; public domain

“Free Software”

LGPL; CPL, MPL, EPL, APSL

“Strong Copyleft”

GPL

Is it OSS or F/OSS?

- **Ideology**
 - two distinct social movements with overlapping goals (i.e., F/OSS)
- **IP license**
 - Free software proper subset of OSS
- **Production methods, governance**
 - Similar goals and approaches

Key Research

- **Lerner & Tirole, “Some Simple Economics of Open Source” (2003)**
- **Lakhani & von Hippel, “How Open Source Software Works” (2003)**
- **Hertel et al, “Motivation of software developers in open source projects” (2003)**
- **von Hippel & von Krogh, “Open Source Software and the ‘Private-Collective’ Innovation Model” (2003)**

Top citations as reported by Google Scholar

Sample Research Questions

- **Why do developers do it?**
- **How do they coordinate their efforts?**
- **Do license differences matter?**
- **Which projects succeed?**
- **How is it similar/different vs. proprietary?**
- **Why do firms get involved?**

Disciplinary Lenses

- **Computer science**
- **Information systems**
- **Economics**
- **Sociology**
- **Anthropology**
- **Law**

Remainder of Workshop

Time	Session
10:10-10:40	Panel: Risks and Rewards of an Interdisciplinary Approach to Open Source Research
10:40-10:55	Tutorial: Data Sources for OSS Research
10:55-11:25	Panel: Getting Your Work Published
11:25-11:30	Summary & Conclusions

Risks and Rewards of an Interdisciplinary Approach to Open Source Research

- **Katherine Stewart, University of Maryland**
- **Siobhán O'Mahony, Harvard Business School**
- **Mikko Välimäki, Swedish School of
Economics and Business Administration**

Data Sources for Open Source Software Research

- **James Howison, Syracuse University**

Getting Your Work Published

- **Rick Watson, University of Georgia**
- **Georg von Krogh, ETH Zurich**
- **Mani Subramani, U. Minnesota**

Summary and Conclusions

- **Kevin Crowston, Syracuse University**

For PDW Slides

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