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It is a great pleasure to have a chance to talk at this session. Going a little bit later, even out of order as Youngjin suggested, does mean that I can react in part to what others have said. In particular, it occurred to me hearing Janet's recount of the history of the formation of OCIS to wonder what the world would have looked like if the Academy of Management's board have actually accepted the proposal for a new Information Systems division instead of opting for the expansion of OC to OCIS. Perhaps if IS had its own division in the academy there might not have been a need for a separate association for information systems and all those people would have been here with us today. While that might have been a good way to bring more IS people into the Academy, we would've lost a lot of what makes us special, because part of the magic of OCIS is that it is not for everyone.



Communications and Information Systems are a bit tense, they hold thoughts for tribes ... Janet listed some of those in her talk. If you think about information systems, everything from economics to design science, only a few of those have found a home in OCIS. The advantage is that the tribes that do find themselves here do belong together. Part of the issue is that

most perspectives on organizations and organizing are really orthogonal to information technology. For instance, if your main focus is on leadership, it is hard to connect that interest to information systems because what leaders do and what systems do seem to be two different things, or at least until recently that was true. But it is a lot clear how systems might impact communication within an organization and vice versa to that point that many scholars refer to the technology we study as ICT not IT (Information and Communications Technology).

The information processing of an organization helps to make sense of both communications and systems, so it is not a surprise to see that IS and OC scholars found that they have common interests around virtual teams, for instance. We are lucky that the design of OCIS brought together these sympathetic tribes who could find common purpose from these diverse backgrounds. But even though the intellectual connection is important, it is the people that make OCIS special, and people have mentioned this a couple of times already. Though we are not for everyone, we are a community that tries really hard to make everyone welcome. OCIS welcomed me when I was a new professor of Information Systems trying to find where my work fits within the world of business schools, and when much of management establishment took for granted or was dismissive of communications and of information systems, people often remember HBR's infamous "IT Doesn't Matter" article, I found that the OCIS community was eager to help develop my ideas. Indeed, some of my more cited papers got their starts at OCIS presentations and improved thanks to the feedback I got. A lot of my new ideas were sparked from sitting in an OCIS symposium for example and hearing people talk. In fact, Cathy, Marybeth, and I had a long productive collaboration that was sparked literally by sitting next to each other in the front row and reacting to the talk afterwards.

Fortunately, today our topic is not dismissed. Interest in systems is growing. This is partly driven by the fear that systems powered by AI will replace the work of many people, and you can see that evidence in the number of sessions that the Academy organized on AI from all types of divisions. Partly it is driven by the emergence of new forms of communication like social media, [and] partly it is new forms to technology-enabled organizing like gig and platform work. Since technology is now a foundation for pretty much everything as Youngjin suggested, we have something to offer to pretty much everyone, and the growth of the hyphenated informatics, I think, is just evidence for that, and that is something where our perspective has something to offer.

And of course, the current COVID crisis is emphasizing the importance of the topics that OCIS is created to study. Work from home went from being a part for few to being the norm for many literally overnight. Zoom has now become my main workplace as I suspect is for many of you, and virtual conferences are now the norm, witness this gathering. In some ways not being physically together is a loss but there are also gains, for example, being more accessible to more people, though as Louis Davidson was telling us we still haven't solved time zones so that's going to be a challenge. Understanding how we are going to work in this [new] normal is really critical. COVID unfortunately is not going to be going away soon, so it is a game where we have a real opportunity to share that expertise. It is a scary time but a time that calls for us, and I'm confident that working together under the banner of Communications, Technology, and Organizing, we will be able to heed this call.