

NYU Stern School of Business
Department of Information, Operations & Management Sciences
INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH SEMINAR

TOPIC: The Determinants of Individual Performance and Collective Value in Private-Collective Software Innovation

SPEAKER: Karim Lakhani, Harvard University

DATE: Thursday, December 3rd

TIME: 4:15 pm – 5:45 pm

PLACE: KMC 5-85

Abstract:

We explore the patterns of innovation generation in a collaborative community setting. Private-Collective innovation systems are distinguished by their free revealing of knowledge and the ability of actors to reinterpret and repurpose existing knowledge created by others in making their own new creations. We examine if there is consistency amongst the actions of an individual to create effective new innovations and the needs of the many in the community to make use of the efforts of others for their own use. We study this relationship in a unique setting of “wiki-like” collaborative programming contests each involving over a hundred contributors and several thousand attempts at creating the “best” software solution to a difficult programming challenge over a one week period. In particular we investigate; 1)The factors that predict a coding entry being ranked at the top upon submission (top performance) and; 2)The factors that predict increasing using of the new code in an entry by others in the community (community value).