

# Introduction

## Rembrandt Klopper

This issue contains a number of contributions in management, informatics and research design. What started as an initial spring shower of submissions in 2010, developed into sustained summer rains of more than fifty manuscripts - enough for both issues of 2011. *Alternation* 18.1 is going to press now, and *Alternation* 18.2 is due to go to press in the second half of the year.

In retrospect, I have had the privilege to edit 10 special issues of *Alternation* over the past decade, with themes related to management, informatics and research capacity development. These are areas of investigation that over the last number of years have developed from being of academic interest only to highlighting actual possibilities for research-driven career development opportunities in entrepreneurship, in corporate settings and in every-day working life. Collaboratively, we have developed an integrated and comprehensive constructive discourse that provides firm foundations for a large number of research trends and practices currently in demand. The research has also laid the groundwork for reporting the results of ongoing or concluded postgraduate research projects. It is hoped that this issue will also advance research in these areas and embolden prospective researchers to launch their own projects in the near future.

The current issue constitutes 19 articles that can be divided into one of three broad knowledge domains, namely management, informatics and research design. The individual contributions are:

1. Kasturi Behari-Leak and Sandra Williams focus on crossing the threshold from being a discipline expert to becoming a discipline practitioner.
2. Yvonne du Plessis looks at the requirements for utilising cultural intelligence as managerial competence.

3. Msizi Mkhize, Rubeshan Perumal and Sadhasivan Perumal report the results of a survey of accounting firms' managers' and trainees' perceptions of diversity management in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.
4. Shamim Bodhanya proposes the application of a concept model to illustrate the tragedy of the commons in the sugar cane supply chain.
5. Wilfred I. Ukpere analyses mechanisms to ameliorate negative impacts of globalisation on human resources, industrial democracy and humanity.
6. Micheline J. Naude and Charles O'Neill elucidate the quest for survival in the South African automotive industry, also within supply chain management.
7. Natalie Astrup and Brian McArthur present the results of an exploratory study on the relationship between emotional intelligence and transformational leadership in information systems managers.
8. Mari Jansen van Rensburg and Teresa Carmichael analyse research results on service learning among business school students.
9. E.J. Louw and T.J. Maubane present a case study of the management of a community project.
10. L. Monji and K. Orltapp present the results of an exploratory study on the relationship between organisational trust, job satisfaction and employees' intention to leave.
11. Kasthuri Poovalingam and Suleman Docrat analyse consumer decision-making in the selection of shopping centres around Durban.
12. Anesh Singh and Sam Lubbe write on evaluating the quality of free online information for decision-making.
13. Huibrecht M. van der Poll, Aletta McGee and Nico J. Booysse present the results of a study of students' perceived ability in the use of a computer application in a community outreach project.
14. Indira Padayachee, Paula Kotzé and Alta van der Merwe present the results of a study of course management systems from a usability perspective.
15. Neil Skea and Manoj Maharaj present the results of an empirical analysis of problems around wireless network security.
16. Sanjay Ranjeeth focuses on the impact of learning styles on the acquisition of computer programming proficiency.

17. Dan Remenyi, Shaun Pather and Rembrandt Klopper discuss some philosophical assumptions underpinning academic research.
18. Stan Hardman and Udo Richard Averweg analyse practitioner research from a critical systems perspective.
19. Rembrandt Klopper makes the case for image schematic role relationship theory in narrative analysis.

Rembrandt Klopper  
Special issues editor, *Alternation* 18,1 (2011)  
rklopper@gmail.com