Organizational systems and new information technologies continue to affect organizations in a number of ways and have opened a myriad of methodological challenges for academics in particular as to how to understand the effect of these technologies on organizations and for practitioners in general attempting to meet organizational needs. Papers in the research methods and applications mini-track over the last few years have reported on a number of research approaches. Papers investigating research questions on a number of issues have yielded mixed results and generated animated discussion in the sessions of this mini-track.

Novel insight into well-researched topics as well as emerging areas can be gained through the use of multi-disciplinary, multi-methodological approaches associated with the organizational complexities related to information technologies. This mini-track has become a forum for researchers who compare experiences with the research approaches they use to investigate real world organizational issues. A distinctive characteristic of papers in this mini-track is how research questions drive the selection of research methods. These papers promise to continue to generate lively discussion and debate.

The first paper, entitled "Using Social Network Analysis to Test an IT-Enabled Business Process Reengineering Theory", is by Nik R. Hassan, Tom C. Richards, and Jack D. Becker. Using results from three business process reengineering (BPR) efforts, this empirical research tests the efficacy of the Organizational Information Processing Theory (OITPT) to explain IT-enabled BPR. The results of the research show that the OITPT is capable of explaining the interaction of technology innovation and process innovation within the context of business process redesign. The theory also introduces measures at the business process level of analysis that can be used by practitioners and researchers as leading indicators of BPR success.

The second paper, entitled "PLS, Small Sample Size, And Statistical Power in MIS Research", by Dale Goodhue, William Lewis, and Ron Thompson, conducts a study using Monte Carlo simulation to compare three techniques (regression, PLS and LISREL) for modeling relationships among variables under varying sample sizes (N = 40, 90, 150, and 200) and varying effect sizes (large, medium, small and no effect). The results suggest that, for simple models and with normally distributed data, PLS with bootstrapping has no apparent special abilities with respect to statistical power at small sample sizes. These findings run counter to the MIS literature which suggests that Partial Least Squares (PLS) has special abilities that make it more appropriate than other technique when analyzing small sample sizes.

The third paper, entitled "Adaptation in Distributed Projects: Collaborative Processes in Digital Natives and Digital Immigrants", by Sajda Qureshi and Cherie Noteboom, suggests that the emergence and widespread use of collaborative technologies for distributed project management has opened up opportunities for off-shore outsourcing and collaborative development. The use of collaborative technologies by participants in distributed projects varies greatly affecting the success of the projects. This paper investigates collaborative interactions among two sets of globally distributed participants. The two sets of distributed groups vary in size, age and experience with the collaborative technologies. Through a comparative analysis using grounded theory analysis of both sets of group interactions, this paper provides insight into the extent and type of adaptation required for successful distributed projects.

The forth paper, entitled "Is Information Systems a Reference Discipline?", is by Sridhar P. Nerur, RadhaKanta Mahapatra, Venugopal Balijepally, and George Mangalaraj. In recent times, there has been a growing interest in the level of intellectual contribution that IS makes to other disciplines. Much of the debate that has dominated the literature so far is based on the visions and opinions of a few IS scholars. This study endeavors to provide new insights into these deliberations by examining citation flows between journals from various business fields, many of which have served as reference disciplines to IS research. A log-multiplicative model was used to assess the influence of IS journals vis-à-vis other business journals. Further, inter-disciplinary flows were analyzed to address the question of whether IS is a valuable source or provider of knowledge. The results suggest that IS, while serving as a modest source of knowledge to management and marketing, is still predominantly a refereeing discipline, relying primarily on these two disciplines for its research.