<div align="center">**IS for Practitioners Department**</div>

**The Role and Value of Practitioner-Research in IS**

The Communications of the Association for Information Systems (CAIS) recognizes practitioner-research as a vital means of generating context-rich, actionable, and innovative knowledge in Information Systems (IS). We understand practitioner-research as:

***Inquiry that emerges from within a practice context, is conducted by individuals embedded in that context, and aims to simultaneously improve practice and contribute insight to the broader IS community.***

Practitioner-research may be conducted by:

- Practitioners, including leaders, managers, consultants, analysts, or change agents, who reflect systematically on their own practice.
- Practitioner-researchers, who straddle the worlds of practice and scholarship (e.g., DBA students, embedded researchers, reflective consultants).
- Academic-practitioner collaborations, where the inquiry is clearly grounded in practice and shaped by those engaged in it.

What distinguishes practitioner-research is not job title, but orientation: a commitment to reflection-in-action, context sensitivity, ethical responsibility, and relevance to the IS field.

**Goals of the IS for Practitioners Department**

This department aims to:

- Bridge the gap between academic research and practical application in IS.
- Provide a platform for practitioner-generated and practitioner-relevant knowledge.
- Encourage reflective, rigorous, and accessible submissions that inform real-world IS challenges.
- Showcase innovations, failures, and sensemaking from within IS practice.
- Foster co-creation between academics and practitioners.

**What We Look For: Core Quality Criteria**

Submissions should reflect the following dimensions:

- Practice Grounding: Clearly emerges from or engages deeply with a real-world IS context.
- Reflective Insight: Moves beyond description to offer learning, critical reflection, or deeper understanding.
- Practitioner Value: Offers actionable ideas, frameworks, or provocations relevant to practitioners.
- Contribution to Shared Knowledge: Contributes insight that is transferable, generalizable, or challenges existing assumptions.

These criteria apply across all submission types and help maintain genre integrity.

**Submission Types and Examples**

The department welcomes a wide range of submissions that align with the nature of practitioner-research:

- Empirical Research - Case studies of IS implementations or change efforts; evaluations of tools, methods, or practices in real settings; action or design science research by embedded or collaborating practitioners.
- Experiential Accounts - Reflective narratives of successes, failures, or lived dilemmas; lessons learned by IS professionals from real initiatives; personal sensemaking drawn from leadership, transformation, or innovation work.
- Conceptual / Analytical Pieces - Frameworks emerging from practitioner inquiry; practice-based critiques or adaptations of existing theories; thought pieces grounded in practice challenges

- Review and Synthesis - Syntheses of insights from practitioner interviews or roundtables; practice-based literature reviews (grey literature, case repositories, etc.); cross-case learning or comparative practice reviews.
- Practitioner Responses to Academic Research - Commentary on relevance or limitations of academic work when applied in practice; reframing academic models from a practitioner perspective.
- Foresight and Trend Pieces - Emerging signals identified by embedded practitioners; reflections on future directions for IS based on cumulative practice experience.

Each of these types must be grounded in practice and demonstrate reflective, insightful, and useful contributions.

**Submission Instructions**

Submissions must include:

- A cover letter identifying the paper type and outlining how the submission addresses the core quality criteria.
- For practitioner-authored work: a description of the author's background and context.
- For academic authors: a clear explanation of how the work is embedded in, or co-produced with, practice.
- Completion of the department's **genre-integrity checklist** (provided on the journal site).

The cover letter must directly address the following questions. Submissions that fail to do so may be desk rejected:

- Have I shown how this work is grounded in real-world IS practice?
- Have I moved beyond reporting to offer reflective insight?
- Will another practitioner or practitioner-researcher find value in this?
- Have I contributed something meaningful to the broader conversation—whether that's a lesson, a tool, a pattern, or a challenge?

Submissions are screened by department editors and undergo double-blind peer review. Reviewers evaluate papers according to the core criteria listed above.

**Support for Authors**

We offer:

- Webinars and resources on writing for practitioner-research audiences
- Access to exemplar papers by genre
- Developmental support for first-time practitioner-authors
- Reviewer training on genre integrity and practitioner-research standards

We welcome inquiries prior to submission and are committed to fostering a vibrant, rigorous, and inclusive space for practitioner-research within CAIS.