

AIM International Visiting Fellow Wins Sumantra Ghoshal Award at Academy of Management

Professor Steven Floyd, an AIM International Visiting Fellow at the University of St. Gallen, and co-authors received the "Sumantra Ghoshal Research and Practice Award" for the paper - "The costs and benefits of Intra-firm networks: An embeddedness perspective" by Karolin Marx, Christoph Lechner and Steven W. Floyd (affiliation for all is University of St. Gallen).

This award was given by the Business Policy and Strategy Division of the US Academy of Management at the Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia in August 2006. The paper was identified as one of seven distinguished papers out of 583 that were on the program. The Ghoshal award is one of two best paper prizes awarded by the division each year. The Ghoshal award is meant to recognize a paper that best represents Sumantra's research values i.e. rigorous research that has value to practicing executives.

For further information please contact Professor Steven Floyd Steven.Floyd@Uconn.edu.

Practicing Research Oriented Action Research ... and other things

Professor Chris Huxham and Dr Paul Hibbert engage with managers in their research through a form of action research known as Research Oriented Action Research, or RO-AR for short. Using RO-AR, they work with managers over issues that are facing them, and in so doing both gain research data and test out developing theories and methods. In recent months they have worked in a variety of settings. Chris and Paul's research focuses on understanding the practice of collaboration; that is on the management of inter-organizational partnerships, alliances, networks and so on. The work includes facilitating workshops for both collaborative groups and in-house groups concerned with their ability to collaborate as well as training in collaboration and investigative research about collaboration in particular sectors. Recent settings include: NHS24, NHSS clinical leaders and the Irish Health Service Executive; the newly reforming Glasgow Colleges Partnership; The Scottish Council for the Voluntary Sector and, groups concerned with the voluntary sector, social work, public service leadership and children and young people.

Their research is, however, not restricted to public settings. A key concern for economic development in Scotland (where Chris and Paul are based) is the development of networks and partnerships between businesses, particularly involving SMEs. In this context, Chris is a steering group member of both the Scottish Partnering Forum and its parent body, Partnership Sourcing Limited which was set up by the DTI and CBI to promote supply chain partnering.

Paul and Chris are also using their expertise to contribute to a number of initiatives that relate closely to their AIM work. Together with AIM Associate Siv Vangen, Chris is part of a consortium of 14 universities across Europe involved in an EC-funded project, 'Learning to Collaborate', that is building a computer-based collaboration simulation. Chris and Paul, together with AIM Associate Steve Cropper and other staff at Keele University, are also involved in an NHS Quality Improvement in Scotland project concerned with establishing a framework of best practice in collaborative working. Finally, as part of a project funded in the EPSRC's 'Bridging the Gaps' programme, Chris and Paul will be supporting the efforts of colleagues to collaborate across Mathematics, ICT and Engineering disciplines.

You can read about RO-AR in: Eden, C. and Huxham, C. (2006) Researching Organizations Using Action Research. In: S. Clegg, C. Hardy, W. Nord and T. Lawrence (eds.) Handbook of Organization Studies (Second Edition), London: Sage.

For further information please contact Professor Chris Huxham on chris@gsb.strath.ac.uk

The AIM Website

Over the last couple of months AIM has been working to restructure the entire research projects section on the website. This section of the website contains information on the AIM Fellow's research projects, who they are working with and the research outputs. To view this new and exciting information please click on the following link:
<http://www.aimresearch.org/mainprojects.html>

The AIM website has increased in popularity at an impressive rate. Since January 2006 our web hits have increased by 45.8% (to 161,106 hits per month) and our downloads by 63% (to 58,110 per month). This a great achievement by all those involved with AIM.

We are extremely keen to promote new events, news and media or research information on our website, whether it be specifically linked to AIM or relating to the wider business and management community. If you know of an event or call for papers you would like publicised, would like to link to our website or would like us to link to yours please email aim@london.edu. The AIM team would very much like to continue the success and need your input to do so.

AIM International Visiting Appointed as Member of German Scientific Board

AIM International Visiting Fellow Professor Joerg Sydow has recently been appointed as a member of the Kuratorium (scientific advisory board) of the Soziologische Forschungsinstitut (SOFI) in Goettingen. The SOFI is one of the leading research institutes in the field of industrial and organizational sociology in Germany.

ACCA Call for Proposals – Pensions

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) wishes to commission research projects with policy and/or practical relevance that examine issues surrounding the continuing pensions debate. Accordingly, ACCA's Research Committee invites applications for funding to support research projects that will contribute to one or more of the following debates on pension-related issues:

- Public policy
- Finance and investment
- Oversight
- Technical accounting.

Background

As is well known, the developed world's ageing population and its shrinking workforce together threaten a growing pensions crisis, which has become an important focus for public policy. The potential impacts of failing pensions systems are diverse, ranging from a severe reduction in the quality of life for older people through to the potential insolvency of major companies worldwide.

Yet although reforms of retirement systems are a key item on economic policy agendas around the world, many issues surrounding this complex problem remain opaque and are not properly understood. Internationally, there is a high degree of uncertainty affecting the complex pensions issue, both in the private sector and in the state systems underpinning them. Despite the introduction of defined benefit guarantee schemes in many countries, the pensions industry has much to do if it is to regain the confidence of consumers and employers globally. Action is needed to achieve consensus around the world among the industry, governments and private sector organisations for long-term, sustainable solutions.

Applications invited

ACCA invites proposals for research that address the important questions in the far-reaching pensions debates from a policy and/or practice perspective. Research projects with international relevance are particularly encouraged, as are those taking a multi-disciplinary approach, which may draw from one or more of the fields of economics, law, actuarial science, corporate governance in addition to accounting and finance.

<http://www.aimresearch.org/040906acca.html>

AIM Bids Farewell to Susy Johnson and Welcomes Danny Guest

Susy Johnson

Susy Johnson, AIM's Online Administrator will be leaving AIM on 1st September for a new position at Lycos. Susy has been with AIM since March 2004 and whilst originally starting as the Office Administrator has, over the last 18 months as Online Administrator, had much to do with the success of the AIM website, its content and the increasing number of hits (an increase of 60% web traffic since January 2006). AIM would like to take this opportunity to thank Susy for all her hard work and commitment during her time with the initiative and wish Susy the best of luck in her new role.

Any enquiries about the AIM website should be directed to efoster@london.edu until further notice.

Danny Guest

Danny Guest joined AIM Research in August 2006 as the DoRN/Office Administrator. In this role Danny will provide support for all of AIM's activities as well as planning events and offering additional support for the Directors of Research Network (DoRN), an initiative established by the British Academy of Management (BAM). Danny graduated in 2004 with BA (Hons) in International Business after periods of study at the University of Glamorgan and the University of Florida. Since graduating Danny has worked in the Leisure Industry for William Hill and Constellation Europe.

If you require any further information on AIM Research, DoRN or BAM please contact Danny at dquest@london.edu.

AIM International Visiting Fellow Speaks at the SPRU: Science and Technology Policy Research Anniversary.



AIM International Visiting Fellow Professor James Utterback from MIT came to the UK in June. James, well known for his work on industry life cycles, dominant design and technological discontinuities, was based at Imperial College with AIM Fellows John Bessant and Jonathan Sapsed.

He gave a series of seminars and workshops and participated in the AIM Innovation Sub Group quarterly meeting. He is pictured here with Jonathan Sapsed, Virginia Acha and George Tsekouras at the Freeman Centre at the University of Sussex where he gave a seminar as part of the 40th anniversary celebrations of SPRU: Science and Technology Policy Research.

News from Academy of Management - Atlanta 2006

Professional Development Workshop

Jeff Marcher, Michael Leiblein and AIM Ghoshal Fellow Professor Michael Jacobides co-organized the new incarnation of the "Bridging the RBV and TCE" PDW, sponsored by BPS, with an industry evolution twist. This PDW, titled "What factors drive change in the structure and attractiveness of industries?" took place on Sunday, August 13th. A great group of facilitators (Nick Argyres, Jay Barney, Dan Levinthal, Harbir Singh, and Todd Zenger) provided comments and helped develop papers from scholars, new and established alike, and shared views with a community of like-minded people.

On Sunday 13th August over 70 academics attended a workshop organized by Professor Ann Langley (AIM International Visiting Fellow) and AIM Senior Fellow Professor Gerry Johnson on Strategy as practice. This workshop took the form of two presentations on the background to Strategy as Practice and its potential research agenda, and the theoretical and methodological resources available to researchers of Strategy and Practice. A lively discussion followed the two presentations and the discussions were facilitated by some high profile discussants both from the UK and US.

AIM hosted a Professional Development Workshop on "Bringing External Innovation Inside" at the Academy of Management Conference in Atlanta. Hosted by AIM Senior Fellow Julian Birkinshaw and Felipe Monteiro, a Doctoral Student at London Business School, the session featured papers by AIM Senior Fellows John Bessant and Rick Delbridge, as well as papers from Professor Anita McGahan (Boston University), Brian Silverman (University of Toronto) and Alfonso Gambardella (Bocconi).

The panellists discussed recent theoretical and empirical work dealing with the challenge of bringing external innovation inside. In an open innovation environment. It is increasingly argued that although a firm's own research efforts play an important role in innovation, it also needs to reach outside its own boundaries and view the world as a global canvas dotted with pockets of knowledge. The panellists talked about their work to show both how important external innovation is, as well as the ways in which it is conducted and its effects (positive and negative) on firm and country competitiveness.

All Academy Event

Michael Jacobides coordinated the All Academy Event "industry evolution: what we know, what we don't, and what we should do about it" took place on Tuesday 15th August of interest, to the panel bridged micro-dynamics and macro-patterns. From macro to micro, Anita McGahan / Steve Klepper considered industry life cycles, when / how they apply, and what lies ahead; Michael Jacobides then focused on how vertical scope evolves, how capabilities shape value chain evolution, and how vertical structures, in turn, affect industry-wide capabilities and prospects; Connie Helfat discussed how capabilities change over time, and how firms respond in such dynamic environments; and finally, Kathy Eisenhardt considered the capabilities of firms to change their sectors and create new markets. The panellists concluded with a question and answer session with Costas Markides concluding thoughts on the strategy and policy implications.

AoM Symposia

On Monday August 14th Michael Jacobides organized a symposium that focused on the "so what's" of this dynamic view – profits and rents over time as sectors evolve. Carliss Baldwin and Kim Clark presented their new work on "footprint competition", explaining how the choice of a firm's scope can shape the competitive context, and their potential profit, as we saw in the war between Sun and Apollo or Dell vs Compaq, yielding concrete prescriptions. Sid Winter and Michael Jacobides presented the newest modelling exercise that shifts the focus from the "long-run equilibrium profits" to the NPV of the (sometimes temporary, sometimes resilient) profits, looking at how they change in a sector's life-cycle. They showed how even with competitive resource markets, and no market imperfections, profitability emerges and sometimes persists, and they considered what drives it, challenging some of the received strategy wisdom. Peter Zemsky and Goncalo Pacheco de Almeida delved more deeply into the question of time profiles and competitive advantage, unravelling the dynamics of, and strategic choices relating to time compression dis-economies; and Jay Barney and Ron Adner lead the discussion.

The emergence of and role for structure, was the morning symposium discussion on Tuesday 15th August. Carliss Baldwin discussed the challenges involved in "unmanageable design architectures", i.e. in complex industrial / economic systems which involve too much complexity for one entity (or one tightly couple set of entities) to manage. Using a specific empirical setting, Stefano Brusoni and Andrea Prencipe considered the nature of designs and the role of knowledge and ownership architectures in the aircraft engine sector. Giovanni Gavetti viewed micro-foundations, focusing on the nature of the search problem, as it is affected by structure. This theme was amplified by Michael Jacobides recent paper on how the division of labour creates inescapable binders and limitations and, more importantly, how hierarchy (or leadership) within organizations may be able to redress such inherent challenges; and this, drawing on the unseemly context of a near-war. Dan Levinthal provided concluding thoughts, opening up a discussion.

AIM Senior Fellow Professor Gerry Johnson took part in a panel presentation session on the "Ritualisation of Strategy Episodes". After Professor Johnson's introduction AIM Associate Dr Nicole Bourque of the University of Glasgow, presented a background of theoretical explanation of ritual and ritualisation from an anthropological point of view. Nicole is an anthropologist and had flown in from La Paz in Bolivia where she was undertaking fieldwork. Following from Dr Bourque AIM Research Fellow Dr Shameen Prashantham presented an outline of the field work on strategy workshops that is currently being undertaken as part of the AIM project on Strategy workshops.

These presentations were concluded by AIM International Visiting Fellow Professor Steven Floyd who interpreted the empirical data in theoretical terms, using the theoretical constructs introduced by Dr Bourque. The discussant for the session was Professor Henry Mintzberg of McGill University in Canada, he began with the remark that the presentation was "The best panel presentation he had ever attended at the academy of management".

AIM International Visiting Fellow named Operations Management Scholar at AoM

AIM International Visiting Fellow at Clemson University, Professor Aleda Roth was named the OM Scholar of the Year at the 2006 Academy of Management Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

Rebecca Duray, OM Divisional Chair said "For the last few years, the Operations Management Division has designated one of our members who best represents the ideals of scholarship in the Operations Management field. As you may have seen in the recent newsletter, this year's selection as an OM Scholar is Aleda Roth. From her Ph.D at Ohio State to her current position as the Burlington Industries Professor of Operations and Supply Chain Management at Clemson University, Aleda Roth has continually added to the depth and quality of research in Operations Management. With her stream of talented Ph. D. students that she has nurtured into developing scholars, Aleda has already left a lasting mark in the Operations Management field and will undoubtedly add to that legacy over the years to come".

Three AIM Fellows Books selected for Presentation at EURAM 2006



At this year's EURAM conference in Oslo, three books by AIM Fellows were presented in the innovative "not yet published books" track, initiated and chaired by former AIM Associate Director Professor Kathrin Moeslein and Professor Frank Piller. These books have been selected among 10 others in a peer-review process from more than 65 submissions of publishers interested to discuss some of their most promising forthcoming books on management practice, research and methodology.

AIM Senior Fellow Professor Gerry Johnson presented the "Exceptional Manager" (by R. Delbridge, L. Gratton & G. Johnson; OUP 2006) a joint book by AIM Senior Fellows dealing with the overall question: "How do businesses go beyond perspective policies and make the shift from the 'low road' to the 'high road' of innovation and value?".

AIM International Visiting Fellow Professor Robert DeFillippi gave insights into his new book "Knowledge at Work: Creative Collaboration in the Global Economy" (R. DeFillippi, M. Arthur, & V. Lindsay, Blackwell Press, forthcoming July/August 2006). This book focuses on the processes through which knowledge is created, accumulated and put to use in the knowledge-driven economy.

AIM International Visiting Fellow and Founding Director Professor Anne Sigismund Huff (above left) introduced her forthcoming book "Connecting with theory" (SAGE Publication, forthcoming). Her book is dealing with one of the most important question researchers have to ask themselves: "How to avoid being distracted into one fascinating alley after another without generating cumulative insight and how to engage the attention of others?"

As this track was a great success in terms of deep discussions with the authors and in terms of developing closer links between authors, management practitioners, and publishers it is planned to continue this track at EURAM 2007 in Paris.

Small Firms and Employment Tribunals

New research, reported in the Financial Times (15 July 2006) and other papers, has examined the common belief that small firms are disadvantaged when they face Employment Tribunal cases over dismissal and other issues. Small firms do lose more cases than large firms, but this is due not to size as such but to their disciplinary practices. The key influence was the existence, but crucially the use in practice, of disciplinary procedures. Small firms using procedures significantly increased their success rate. It is also sometimes argued that small firms drop out of the whole process, between the bringing of a claim and a tribunal case, more than do large ones - because they lack the resources to pursue a case. There was no evidence of this.

The research was carried out by Professor Paul Edwards and Dr Sukanya Sen Gupta, together with their colleagues at Warwick Business School, David Storey and George Saridakis. It will be presented at conferences in the Autumn, and a copy of the paper is available from Paul on p.k.edwards@warwick.ac.uk.

AIM Research Fellow conducts seminar



AIM Research Fellow in the Innovation Studies Centre at Imperial College's Tanaka Business School, Dr Richard Adams, gave an invited seminar based on his PhD research to faculty and students of CERAM Sophia Antipolis (France). The title of the presentation was "Innovation types: configurations of attributes as a basis for innovation classification".

The seminar was well received by all delegates, and proved an interesting topic for discussion.

For further information please contact Richard Adams on r.adams@imperial.ac.uk

AIM Research Fellow Presents Research Results

AIM Research Fellow in the Innovation Studies Centre at Imperial College's Tanaka Business School Dr Richard Adams presented the results of his research (with John Bessant, AIM Senior Fellow, Innovation Studies Centre, Imperial College London and Bob Phelps, Cranfield School of Management) on the role and use of external knowledge in growing organisations to members of the Leadership and Management Advisory Panel (supported by DfES and DTI). The Panel comprises of Chief Executives or equivalents from businesses of all sizes across the UK and is chaired by Ian Smith, Vice President and UK Managing Director of the Oracle Corporation, and its purpose is to offer strategic advice to Government Ministers, the Boards of Non-Departmental Public Bodies and other major agencies on the ways and means to improve leadership and management across the private, public and voluntary sectors in the UK. The panel was particularly interested in the insights Richard's work (available as an AIM Report, December 2005 - <http://www.aimresearch.org/publications/externalknowledge.pdf>) offers into identifying the distinctive phases of organizational growth and the factors that might affect different approaches to leadership and management.

Targeted Initiative on Innovation and AIM Mid-Career Innovation Fellowships - Call for Proposals

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is inviting applications for research into innovation through two mechanisms:

- Research projects as part of a £2 million Targeted Initiative on Innovation, and
- A new cohort of Mid-Career Fellowships through the Advanced Institute of Management Research (AIM).

Targeted Initiative on Innovation

Research projects under the Targeted Initiative will be focused on four inter-related questions exploring key aspects of innovation both in the UK and within an international comparative context. The main objective of the initiative is to promote and support world class theoretical, empirical, policy- and practice-oriented research in innovation. Applications are welcome from all disciplines that contribute to the specified research questions on innovation.

AIM Mid-Career Fellowships on Innovation

AIM Mid-Career Fellowships will not only address outstanding research questions in the area of innovation, but will also complement the capacity building and knowledge transfer objectives of AIM. Funding is available to support six Fellows for a period of 2 years. With emphasis on research on management (rather than in management), applications are invited from all relevant disciplines.

For both schemes, applications must be from researchers based at UK Higher Education Institutions and other Research Institutes eligible for ESRC or EPSRC funding.

The closing date for both schemes is **4pm on Tuesday 3 October 2006**. All applications are to be submitted via the Joint Electronic Submission system. Postal submission is not possible.

Information Seminars

To support applications to these two schemes, the ESRC and AIM will be holding Information Seminars for potential applicants:

- 8th September - The Royal Institute of British Architects, London
- 14th September - British Academy of Management Conference, Belfast

To register for an Information Seminar, please email denis.orourke@esrc.ac.uk.

For further information on the two calls, please contact Anna Marshall (email anna.marshall@esrc.ac.uk or telephone 01793 413030).

AIM Fellows publish research in the Sloan Management Review

AIM Senior Fellow Julian Birkinshaw and AIM Research Fellow Michael Mol, both at London Business School, have just published an article in Sloan Management Review as part of their ongoing investigation into management innovation (the implementation of new management processes, practices and structures that represent a significant departure from current norms). The article, entitled 'How management innovation happens', provides practitioners with an insight into the process through which management innovation takes place. Julian and Michael describe four different phases in the management innovation process. They use several contemporary and historical case studies to illustrate this process and also provide six recommendations for companies that wish to engage in management innovation. Please click on the link for the full article: <http://sloanreview.mit.edu/smr/issue/2006/summer/15/>.

For more information please contact Michael Mol, m.mol@rdg.ac.uk

AIM EVENTS

AIM Reception at the Academy of Management Annual Conference

AIM hosted a very popular reception at the AoM 2006 Annual conference in Georgia, Atlanta in August this year. Aimed at first time visitors to the event, the reception helped newcomers and veterans alike get their bearings at this huge event.

AIM at the BAM Annual ConferenceExhibition

AIM will be exhibiting at the forthcoming British Academy of Management Annual Conference to be held in Belfast on 12-14 September 2006. Come and visit us at Stand 7 to pick up our latest publications or order them to be delivered to you at a later date.

AIM Phase 2 (2007-2010) Presentation
Thursday 14 September 2006, 09.00-10.30, The Green Room

Professor Robin Wensley will be giving a presentation and hosting a discussion on the developments already approved as well as those in the planning stage for the second phase of the ESRC/EPSC Advanced Institute of Management Research Initiative.

ESRC/AIM Question and Answer Session on the Targeted Initiative on Innovation and AIM Mid-Career Innovation Fellowships
Thursday 14 September 2006, 16.00-17.30, The Green Room

Adrian Alsop (ESRC) and Robin Wensley (AIM) will host his session which is an open one to answer any questions potential applicants to either of the two elements wish to raise.

The current call for proposals has a closing date of 3rd October 2006 (see http://www.esrc.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/current_funding_opportunities/InnovationAIM.aspx) . If you wish to register your interest in this information session beforehand please email denis.orourke@esrc.ac.uk or sharon.finch@esrc.ac.uk

AIM/RDI Systematic Literature Review Workshop Series

The purpose of this workshop series is to support junior, mid-career and senior management academics with learning how to teach systematic literature review at masters and doctoral levels. In addition, participants will have an integral opportunity to work on a systematic review related to a management topic of their choice, with a view to producing a potentially publishable paper. The series is led by Dr David Denyer and Dr Colin Pilbeam of Cranfield Management School. Three one-day workshops will be offered over six months, in four regions (London, Glasgow, Leeds and Bath).

For an application form, please email aimevents@london.edu Completed forms must be received by 22 September 2006.

High Performing Organisations
Cardiff Business School, 25 October 2006

To continue to be successful in the global economy, companies and organisations throughout the UK must learn to compete in terms of innovativeness and value added. The 'low road' of cost cutting, de-layering and downsizing cannot deliver sufficient efficiency improvement to sustain most UK organisations in the face of international competition and national stakeholder demands. How can we all meet the challenge of the 'high road' of competing on value, know how and innovation?

If you would like to receive further information on this event, please email aimevents@london.edu

BAM 2006 (Belfast) Organizational Studies Track Symposium - Connecting the Micro and the Macro**Wednesday 13th September, Hilton.**

This symposium will focus on the reasons for, and challenges of, bridging different levels of organizational analysis, from the micro to the macro. The participants are involved in various research projects under the AIM (Advanced Institute for Management) initiative, which connect various disciplinary approaches as well as multiple levels of analysis. Our aim is to: (1) span the boundaries that have evolved between specialist sub-disciplines which tend to focus on just one level of analysis, and; (2) improve the relevance of academic research for practitioners, including managers and policymakers. Through presentations, audience interaction and the involvement of leading figures in the Organization Studies field as discussants we will explore the reasons, theoretical and practical, for connecting different levels of analysis. We will also consider the methodological challenges this presents. The symposium overall will make a case for holistic approaches to understanding organization and management problems, as opposed to paradigmatic territorialism and methodology wars.

For further information, please view the AIM website, <http://www.aimresearch.org/130906bam.html>

ESRC First Grant Scheme Success!
(with a little help from the AIM-BAM Proposal Writing Workshops)



Dr Sarah Ayres, from the University of Bristol, writes:

During 2005 I was fortunate enough to attend two of the AIM-BAM workshops on writing research grant applications, organised by Ian Clarke (AIM Senior Fellow and Chair in Marketing at Lancaster University Management School). The introductory workshop provided an overview on how to deal with a range of funders, including the ESRC. Academics, a member of the ESRC and the Grants Board, together with a successful grantholder talked about common pitfalls and offered guidance on how to tick the required boxes. The workshop also provided details on the grants application process and how proposals are assessed by peers and ESRC Board members.

A few weeks later I attended the workshop on writing small grant applications. In preparation we were asked to write a draft proposal consistent with the ESRC format. We heard from a number of academics, some of whom had been successful in securing funding and others who had been unsuccessful but were willing to share the benefit of their hindsight. We were also given feedback on the drafts we had prepared by senior academics with strong track records of funded research. Mike Wallace (AIM Public Service Fellow and Professor of Education at the University of Bath) was my mentor for the afternoon and provided comments on my draft, which we talked about one-to-one and as part of a small group.

As someone 'new to the game' I found these events invaluable, particularly when I came to write my own application to the ESRC. While writing the bid I referred to my workshop notes as 'gospel', a strategy that recently paid off as I have just been awarded a two year project as part of the ESRC's First Grants Scheme. The project is titled English Regionalism: Rhetoric or Substance? Evaluating Decision Making Procedures for Regional Funding Allocations (RES-061-23-0033). It begins in November 2006 and will explore how designated funding is allocated for economic development, housing and transport policy across all English regions, including London. For further details see <http://www.bris.ac.uk/sps/research/cus/staff/ayres.shtml>

I am delighted to be given the chance to manage my own project and remain grateful to AIM and BAM for the training I have received. It made all the difference in securing the project.

Master Class in Empirical Research - 09.30 - 17.30 Monday 23 Oct 2006

Speaker(s): Professor Aleda Roth, AIM International Visiting Fellow & Professor Chris Voss, AIM Senior Fellow

One Day Master class in Empirical Research

Professor Aleda Roth, AIM International Visiting Fellow, will lead a one day Master Class in Empirical Research focusing on survey research methodology. The main focus will be on research in Operations Management. In case of over-subscription, PRIORITY will be given to PhD students and lecturers. The Master Class is sponsored by the Operations and Technology Management Group at London Business School and the Advanced Institute of Management Research (AIM)

Event location
 London Business School

Contact: Fran Husson - Email: fhusson@london.edu Tel: 020 70008818 How to sign up for this event. This event is free of charge but online registration is mandatory- <http://forms.london.edu/form.asp?id=5500>

Update on the AIM Capacity Building Programme

AIM is organising a substantial programme of capacity building activities and events during the rest of 2006 and into 2007. The table below summarises some activities whose details have been confirmed, and others that are still in the pipeline. For further details of particular activities or application arrangements, please visit the AIM website (www.aimresearch.org) or contact Victoria Gatt, AIM Events Officer (vgatt@london.edu).

<i>Focus of Activity</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Type of activity</i>	<i>Organiser</i>
2006				
Publishing in top management journals 2: working on revised papers	11-12th September	AIM Office	second in a two-workshop series	Steve Floyd, Gerry Johnson
Contributing to the doctoral symposium at the BAM annual conference	11-12th September	Stranmillis University College, Belfast	menu of workshops	British Academy of Management
RDI regional systematic literature reviewing workshop 1: getting started on conducting a review	3rd, 6th October	London venue tbc, Edinburgh	first in a three-workshop series	David Denyer, Colin Pilbeam, Mike Wallace
Methods for studying processes of innovation and change	4th October	AIM Office	workshop	Andy Van de Ven, Mike Wallace
Researching organizations as pluralistic contexts	6th October	Aston Business School, Birmingham	workshop	Paula Jarzabkowski, Andy Van de Ven
RDI regional research methods workshop 3: teaching quantitative methods	13th, 17th, 20th October	Leeds, London Business School, Strathclyde	third in a six-workshop series	Mike Wallace, Paul Jackson
RDI regional systematic literature reviewing workshop 2: conducting a review, and implications for teaching	24th October, 3rd November	London venue tbc, Edinburgh	second in a three-workshop series	David Denyer, Colin Pilbeam, Mike Wallace
Doing international comparative research: principles, pitfalls and practicalities	10th November	London Business School	workshop	Simon Collinson, Chris Huxham, Andrew Pettigrew, Mark Ebers, Joerg Sydow
Organisational discourse methods	23rd-24th November	Cardiff Business School	workshop	Julia Balogun, Paula Jarzabkowski, Robyn Thomas
Institutional research: developing a research agenda	November	Cardiff Business School	workshop	Cynthia Hardy, Robyn Thomas, Rick Delbridge
2007				
RDI regional supervising research students workshop 1	23rd, 26th, 30th January, 2nd February	AIM Office, Cardiff, Leeds, Strathclyde	first in a two-workshop series	Dan Remenyi, Mike Wallace
RDI regional systematic literature reviewing workshop 3: writing-up a review, implications for teaching	6th, 9th February	London venue tbc, Edinburgh	third in a three-workshop series	David Denyer, Colin Pilbeam, Mike Wallace
Early career 'peer assist' support for developing papers for publication	February	tbc	workshop	Simon Collinson and colleague Ghoshal Fellows
RDI regional research methods workshop 4: topic tbc	23rd, 27th February, 2nd March	Leeds, London Business School, Strathclyde	fourth in a six-workshop series	Mike Wallace
RDI regional supervising research students workshop 2	20th, 23rd, 27th, 30th March	AIM Office, Cardiff, Leeds, Strathclyde	second in a two-workshop series	Dan Remenyi, Mike Wallace
RDI regional research methods workshop 5: teaching qualitative methods	25th June, 2nd, 9th July	Leeds, London Business School, Strathclyde	fifth in a six-workshop series	Catherine Cassell, Mike Wallace

Note: RDI regional workshops are funded through the ESRC Researcher Development Initiative (www.rdi.ac.uk/index.asp).

CIMA Research Initiative 2006: Interventionist Research

CIMA (The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants) invites proposals that will examine management accountancy issues through the process of interventionist research.

In the interventionist research process the researcher is an active participant - finding solutions to organisational problems. Research projects will focus on real and immediate problems, involving academics and practitioners working together to find solutions. The objective of this Research Initiative is to make management accounting research more applicable and useable by organisations. CIMA believes the initiative will also contribute to a greater understanding of the benefits of interventionist research and will identify its potential in the future.

CIMA expects the majority of proposals to be based on existing and probably well established partnerships between academics and practitioners. Enquiries from practitioners who are the sponsors of an initiative within their organisation and would like to work with a researcher using interventionist research are also encouraged. In such circumstances, CIMA will seek to act as a relationship broker.

Proposals could cover any issues of relevance to the field of management accounting and the role of the accountant in business; but preferably they should fit into the Technical Agenda outlined in the CIMA Technical brochure or in the CIMA Research Strategy (available on the CIMA website). CIMA's Research and Development Group have identified the following as examples of contemporary issues that could be explored:

- Organisations without boundaries
- Technological developments
- Outsourcing and business partnering
- Organisational growth/contraction
- Technical modification of a management accounting system

Other issues within the field of management accounting will also be considered.

For the research to be successful, it would be expected that the researcher will be part of the team in the organisation, devoting quality time to the research project.

CIMA expects the research to have a duration of approximately 6 months, and to focus on resolving a clearly defined issue within an organisation. CIMA welcomes proposals from UK and internationally based research teams.

Potential organisations could include multinationals, large commercial enterprises and/or their subsidiaries, SMEs, charities or departments / bodies from the public sector.

Further details on criteria for proposals and application forms can be obtained from the CIMA website www.cimaglobal.com/research. Enquiries should be directed to the CIMA Technical team on +44 (0)20 8849 2220 or email research@cimaglobal.com.

The first deadline for proposals will be 30 October 2006. This will be followed by a review panel day in late November / early December 2006. There will be a second deadline for proposals in 28 February 2007 and a second panel day in late March/ early April 2007.

The review panel will be chaired by Professor Falconer Mitchell, University of Edinburgh. Confirmed panel members include: Professor Kari Lukka, Turku School of Economics and Business Administration, Finland; Robin Bellis-Jones, Bellis-Jones Hill Group; and Rebecca Ryan, Close Brothers Group plc.