

## Kolloquiumsvortrag

Freitag, 13. Juni 2025, 10:00 Uhr, WE5/04.003

Fakultät Wirtschaftsinformatik und Angewandte Informatik

### Reflections on the Early History of Information Systems Development Methodologies

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Information systems development (ISD) methodologies have been at the core of the information systems (IS) domain since its inception. The challenges of understanding the evolution of this domain is their fast change, enormous variety, and increasing embedding of the “how” of ISD into development contexts. Yet knowing how IS are designed and implemented, and how this knowledge is passed on to future developer generations is centrally important. In this presentation, we will explore how and why ISD methodologies have changed over time, and what likely explains their enormous variety. Generally, ISD methodologies can be defined as: “evolving, shared, explicit, cognitive, and normative knowledge systems that provide answers to how to develop an information system”. As institutionalized knowledge artifacts they are created and sustained collectively across many communities (academic/practice) to support ISD. They do so by typifying and standardizing development activities and outputs, and offering heuristics to address development problems.

The first publicly available ISD methodologies emerged in the 1960s. Since then, they have proliferated into hundreds, perhaps thousands, even though most invented forms of the major methodologies (waterfall, etc.) are still in use. This talk will present an historical analysis of the 70-year evolution of ISD methodologies focusing particularly on the early history of ISD methodology development and use.