
Friday, September 11
Legacy Room (CBA 3.202)
10:00 – 11:30 AM

Abstract

What makes some federal agencies in the United States digitally advanced and others lagging? This study investigates how the national politics affects IT investment profiles in U.S. federal agencies. Drawing upon a range of the literature from the political sciences, public administration, and information systems (IS) disciplines, we hypothesize that a federal agency’s capacity-building IT investments are associated with (i) the diversity of its functions, (ii) legislative approval for chief executives, (iii) government dividedness, and (iv) the agency’s ideological characteristics. With a panel dataset from 133 federal agencies and bureaus in 2003-2015 spanning the Bush and the Obama Administrations, our empirical analyses produce several intriguing findings. For instance, when both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives are controlled by the President’s ruling party, federal agencies are predicted to invest approximately $4.19%-point more in new IT development and modernization than when the opposition party holds the majority in both chambers. We contribute to the IS literature in two fronts. To the best of our knowledge, ours is one of the first to study the role and impact of principals (legislatures and board-of-directors) on IT investment decisions. We also examine what affects budget allocation decisions between IT development and maintenance, which to the best of our knowledge, few IS studies have studied so far.

Biography

Min-Seok Pang is an assistant professor of Management Information Systems at Fox School of Business, Temple University. Before joining Fox MIS in 2014, he was a faculty member at School of Business, George Mason University. He has received a Ph.D. in Business Administration from Stephen M. Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan in 2011 and holds an M.S. in Management and a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST). His research has been published in several premier academic journals such as Management Science, Information Systems Research, MIS Quarterly, Decision Support Systems, and Journal of Information Technology and featured in such news outlets as Computerworld. His research interests include IT business value, IT governance, and electronic governments. He is teaching Strategic Management of Information Technology and Data Science at Fox School of Business.