

# Applying Phenomenology and Hermeneutics in IS Design: A Report on Field Experiences

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## Abstract

Phenomenology and hermeneutics have long been promoted as sources of inspiration for better information system (IS) design. Practical approaches to applying these philosophical ideas have been awaited for just as long. This paper offers a review of one practitioner's experience in devising a theoretical and methodological 'toolkit' via which these disciplines' principles have been applied in actual IS design practice.

**Keywords:** design, phenomenology, hermeneutics, information systems

## Biography



**Dr. Randall Whitaker** is a senior human factors analyst with Northrop Grumman Information Technology, Vice-President for Electronic Publications - American Society for Cybernetics, and creator / manager of the Observer Web (the largest online resource on the work of Humberto Maturana and Francisco Varela).

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