

**Consortium for Education and Social Science Research
2009-2010 Workshop in Methods
Speaker Series**

Building Theory in the Social Sciences

By

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Friday, November 13, 2009 – 1:30 - 3:00 – Woodburn Hall 200



In many social science disciplines, theory is what gets papers published. Data is interesting, but it is the theory that makes the contribution, even in empirical papers. In this workshop, we will look at what theory is and what theory is not, and discuss how to build theory. Since this is a workshop, we will have time for participants to work in groups to critique samples of "theory" and to think about and solicit comments on their own theory building work.

Alan Dennis is Professor of Information Systems and holds the John T. Chambers Chair of Internet Systems in the Kelley School of Business. He is a Senior Editor at MIS Quarterly and Co-Director of the Rob Kling Center for Social Informatics. He is the author of numerous articles, including several theory articles. He teaches a Ph.D. seminar on dissertation proposal writing and theory building.

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