

Software Requirements Elicitation: Research Trends in the Disruptive Era

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ABSTRACT

Requirements elicitation is the most communication rich and iterative activity in requirements engineering that relies heavily on the skills of the analysts and the cooperation of all stakeholders. It represents an early but continuous and critical stage in the development of software systems. It is a well accepted fact that requirements are **“elicited” rather than just captured or collected and there are** elements of discovery, creativity, emergence, and development in the whole elicitation process. All these diverse elements have presented many challenges for requirements elicitation research, training and practice in the last 4 decades. In this talk, I will briefly review the past and present directions of research and practice in requirements elicitation over four decades and highlight the challenges and issues revealed and addressed so far. I will then review some of the important lessons that I have learnt from two decades of requirements engineering research and what these lessons reveal in the disruptive era. I will argue that we do not have any real theory that can adequately explain the requirements elicitation process. I posit that ultimately this theory would have to be a **“reconciliation of social and technical”**.

BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Didar Zowghi is Professor of Software Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology (FEIT) at University of Technology Sydney (UTS). She is also Adjunct Professor of Software Engineering at the Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand. Before becoming a full time academic, she worked in software industry both in the UK and Australia as a programmer, software engineer, analyst, consultant, and project manager. Professor Zowghi's core research focuses on improving the software development processes and the quality of their products. In particular, her research addresses important challenges in the communication rich, multidisciplinary activities of software development, often referred to as Requirements Engineering (RE). She has also conducted and supervised empirical field studies in Global Software Development, Technology Adoption, Web Technologies, Software Process Improvement, Service Oriented Computing, Mobile Learning, data quality, and supply change management, mainly in collaboration with industry within Australia. She has supervised to completion many MSc and PhD research students and has received competitive research grants of over AUD\$2.5 million including Discovery and Linkage grants from Australian Research Council and International Science Linkage grants for research collaboration with Peking University in China. She has published over 180 research articles in prestigious conferences and journals and has co-authored papers with 80 different researchers from 25 countries.