

## The Trichotomy of Processes: a philosophical basis for information systems

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### Abstract

The principle of trichotomy from the American philosopher Charles S. Peirce can be used to categorize processes into the triad of transactional, relational, and informational. The usefulness of these categories is explicated by a comparison with structuration theory and of democracy in a knowledge economy. These three example applications of the process triad show the generality of the conceptual categories and provide a natural way of bringing ideas from social and ethical theories into information systems design. Modeling the through the use of the Trichotomy of Processes should facilitate the development of more valuable information systems.

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