This seminar focuses on theory building and research design, especially, using qualitative, empirical research methods. It is intended for Ph.D. students in Information Systems (IS). The goal of the seminar is to provide students with insight into how to develop substantive, well-grounded, and innovative IS theories, especially, by using qualitative, empirical research methods. To achieve this goal, students will engage in a number of activities during this three-day course, including lectures on theory development, presentations of their own work, and in-class discussions. The course format offers an interactive learning experience and the unique opportunity to obtain individualized feedback from leading IS researchers and fellow Ph.D. students on participants' current Ph.D. projects. The intended learning outcomes are focused on 'theory development' and 'quality' throughout the entire research process, for example:

- **Theoretical quality**: theoretical quality relates to challenges surrounding the theoretical contribution of a Ph.D. work: How good is the developed theory or theoretical model? How appropriate is the use of prior theory in the research process? How much theoretical value is being produced by the research? How can good theory be identified and demonstrated?

- **Methodological quality**: methodological quality relates to challenges in designing and executing a research plan to find an answer to a stated research question: What are good research designs for qualitative, empirical research? How good does the research design fit the research question? Is the design executable and feasible? What are risks in the research plan and how are they mitigated? Which methodological alternatives are available to the student in building the research design?

Dr. Suprateek Sarker ("Supra") is a professor of information technology at the McIntire School of Commerce, University of Virginia, and a distinguished visiting professor at Aalto University School of Business, Helsinki, Finland. Dr. Sarker is primarily a qualitative researcher and his work has been published in leading IS outlets including the MIS Quarterly, Information Systems Research, Journal of the AIS, Journal of the MIS, European Journal of Information Systems, Information Systems Journal, Journal of IT, Journal of Strategic Information Systems, Communications of the ACM, MIS Quarterly Executive, Communications of the AIS, Decision Support Systems, IEEE Transactions, IEEE Software, ACM Transactions on MIS, and Decision Sciences. Dr. Sarker is currently serving as the editor-in-chief of the Journal of the AIS, a senior editor of Decision Sciences Journal, a senior editor (emeritus) of MIS Quarterly, a member of the board of editors of Journal of the MIS, and an editorial board member of IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management and IT & People. He is a past recipient of the Stafford Beer Medal (with Prof. S. Sahay) awarded by the OR Society, UK. Some of his past work has been funded by ISBM, and NSF, USA. He has been named to receive an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Jyväskyla, Finland, in August 2016.

The seminar schedule will be posted at [www.uni-kassel.de/go/iteg-supraseminar2016](http://www.uni-kassel.de/go/iteg-supraseminar2016)

Info / Registration: Inken Poszner (iteg@uni-kassel.de)