



# Seminar

Speaker: Dr. Peter Rigby

Title: Empirical Software Engineering: A case study of peer review in open source software

Date: Thursday February 9, 2012

Time: 10:00 am.

Place: EV3.309

## ABSTRACT

How do we know which Software Engineering (SE) practices produce the highest quality software systems on time and on budget?

In answer to this question, I will discuss my Empirical Software Engineering research program. This area of work interests me because validated empirical evidence on software practices allows us to understand which are successful and in which context they can be transferred to other projects. Adoption of evidence based SE practices increases the likelihood that a software product will be of high-quality, as well as on time and on budget. To generate validated hypothesis and more general theories, empirical SE requires the collection of evidence from multiple sources and the use of a variety of methods (triangulation). I have shown the fruitfulness of this approach in a number of empirical SE studies. For example, I examined the effects of distributed version control on developer organization and system architecture. In my dissertation, I performed a systematic and comparative evaluation of open source software peer review practices.

## Bio:

Peter C. Rigby is a postdoctoral researcher working with Dr. Robillard at McGill University in Montreal. He received his PhD from the University of Victoria for his examination of the peer review practices used by OSS projects. His PhD advisers were Dr. Storey and Dr. German. He received a Bachelor degree at the University of Ottawa in Software Engineering and has taught two third year Software Engineering courses (Software Maintenance and HCI). His primary research interest is in Mining Empirical Software Engineering data to understand the how people collaborate to design and develop large, successful software systems. His three current research areas are: informal API documentation quality, lightweight industrial review techniques, and the affect distributed version control is having on developer collaboration. Please see [helium.cs.uvic.ca](http://helium.cs.uvic.ca/) <<http://helium.cs.uvic.ca/>> for more details.