Abstract: Lasse Vogelsang Ph.D.
The thesis addresses the utilization of systems development methods.
The thesis provides answers to the research question: How can researchers and practitioners conceive utilization of systems development methods? Method utilization, as it is defined in this thesis, involves adoption, adaptation, and use of methods at an organizational-, a project and an individual- level in the development organizations. This definition of method utilization is introduced to provide a broad and clearer view on methods in practice.

The thesis answers the research question by providing ways to understand method utilization. This is achieved by providing 1) an analysis of a specific development context (web development) in which a method is utilized, 2) a framework for selecting techniques based on analysis of risk, 3) an analysis of perspectives on methods based on knowledge management theory, and finally 4) a conceptual framework for method utilization in development organizations making up nine perspectives on method utilization.

The contributions in the thesis are based on an interpretive longitudinal field study. The study followed the adaptation, adaptation and use of a method in a development organization over a period of three years. The field study consisted of an exploratory-, indepth-, and participatory- phase each having different purposes and roles of the researcher.

The thesis consists of a summary and five published research papers. The summary provides details on the background of the research, the contributions, and research approach. Moreover, it relates the contributions from the five research papers to conceptual and empirical research on method utilization. The second part of the thesis consists of the five research papers in which contains the main answers to the research question.