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From the Editor – About this issue – perceptions of project management in traditionally non-PM industry sectors

This special issue is timely and appropriate, coming at the end of the first decade of the twenty-first century...to help “pass the baton” in the PM journey of self-discovery that has been manifest in papers published in the International Journal of Project Management and the Project Management Journal.

The aim of this issue was to provide a focal point for demonstrating that project management applies in different ways and can be seen from a number of different perspectives. In this way, as a special issue it provides a series of papers providing a theme of different ways of looking at the lived experience of project management.

The papers presented in this issue have been chosen to challenge some readers who may still be accustomed to thinking of project management in terms of more traditional sectors. While many of my colleagues acknowledge that project management is ubiquitous in terms of industry sectors there is still a lot of debate about what PM really means and what we should be focused on in developing research and developing project management practice.

The paper by Kersti Nogeste from Australia, is entitled “Understanding Mergers and Acquisitions from a Program Management Perspective”. The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate how the practice of program management can be used to manage strategically oriented initiatives such as mergers and acquisitions (M&As). This is a project management related area that receives scant attention and yet we in the business world are seemingly continually buffeted by the fallout from M&As and related restructuring and re-framing of organisations. This paper takes a program management stance and opens our eyes to the ramifications of a merger or acquisition upon organisational change, customer services, human resource management, marketing and a number of other aspects that are so heavily impacted that they spawn projects within the acquisition program of change. **Her research approach is that of a reflective practitioner** who was intimately involved in the case study. As a result she developed her own deep insights along with having access to program participants who provided their own deep knowledge and insights from which conclusions could be drawn. **Being a reflective practitioner is what many of us espouse as a desirable state for project managers.** Therefore, this paper has value as an exemplar paper from a practitioner who with the benefit of doctoral level research training allows us to gain a glimpse into their world.