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Abstract

The paper is concerned with bridging the interdisciplinary divide between the technical and social aspects in the enterprise of software engineering. We do this by developing a postmodernist perspective on software engineering, disputing the notion of a grand narrative of software engineering (that is, an exclusive and embracing account of software engineering as a technical, rational project) by offering a series of accounts of a key meeting in a software project. These accounts both trade-off and disrupt a technical, rational narrative and indicate that the current situation in software engineering is one of stasis. However, our analysis indicates also a potential for diversity in software engineering with the valorization of differences, pluralities and heterogeneities at the expense of grand theory.



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Keywords

Postmodernism; Software engineering; Ethnography; Discourse analysis

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