Complex project management – a necessary new skill or an elitist absurdity? Australian academic Jon Whitty opens the debate and says ‘ditch the concept’.

IT’S JUST ABSURD!

The nice thing about standards is that there are so many of them to choose from.

Andy Tanenbaum, US computer scientist

The project management community does not need to be fractionalised in this way. Conducting research and participating in the practice of the project management phenomenon is difficult enough without the further distractions caused by the qualitative (complex and non-complex) classification of projects.

It is my belief that scholars of project management should spend their time questioning and examining norms and not reinforcing them. Practitioners of project management are poised ready to grasp solutions to their problems, and I challenge scholars and practitioners to breakaway from conservatism and embrace new ways of thinking about project management.

The first step should be the rejection of the discipline called complex project management!

Jon Whitty hails from Wales but is now an academic at the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering at the University of Queensland, Australia.

He has dedicated himself to participating in the debate about project management.

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What do you think? Do you agree with Jon or do you believe he is off the mark? Email your views to james@impact-now.co.uk or post them on the blogspot http://projectandnetwork.blogspot.com

Jon Whitty

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In My View