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How Technology-Afforded Practices at the Micro Level Can Generate Institutional Change at the Field Level: Theorizing the Recursive Mechanism Actualized in Swedish Rheumatology 2000–2014

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Abstract

The information systems literature has paid vast attention to how macro-level structures shape local technology enactments. Less research has focused on the *mutual* shaping of situated technology enactments and such extra-organizational structures. This study explores how technology-afforded human action at the micro level may transform field-level social structures and thus generate institutional change. We use a critical realist approach and institutional logics lens and draw on empirical data about the development and implementation of an e-health service in Swedish rheumatology between 2000 and 2014. We identify a recursive mechanism consisting of three recursive practices—*material reconstruction*, *discursive reconstruction*, and *emergent use*—that fostered a shift in the field’s constellation of institutional logics, moving from a competitive to an additive relationship between logics.

Keywords: Recursive mechanism, micro-level enactments, technology affordances, healthcare, longitudinal case study, field-level change, institutional logics, critical realism