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Prof. Runeson's research interests concern methods and processes for software development, with a certain interest for software testing. The research is directed towards development and evaluation of efficient and effective methods to facilitate and measure software quality. The research has a strong empirical focus, involving surveys, case studies and experiment conducted in close cooperation with industry partners.

Prof. Runeson has published more than 130 refereed papers in international journals, conferences and workshops, bringing a 4th rank worldwide in JSS ranking of systems and software engineering research scholars, based on publication records 2003-2007. He is the prime author of a book on case study research in software engineering (Wiley, 2012) and continues to contribute to the methodological development of the field.