Introduction to the Social & Psychological Perspectives in Collaboration Research Minitrack

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Technology supported collaboration and communication between individuals entails complex social and psychological situations. An understanding of social and psychological aspects of collaboration is essential to creating productive work environments. The use of collaboration and communication systems is framed by the psychological and social factors concerning the users and their work environment. It is important to understand these factors to successfully facilitate the sustained use of these technologies. Further, knowledge of the psychological-sociological aspects of technology-supported collaboration and communication also assists in detecting, avoiding, and effectively resolving issues that may arise from using such technologies.

Since its inception in 2012 at HICSS-45, this minitrack has provided a venue for studying issues related to the dynamic interplay between people, their environment, and the collaboration technologies they use to create collaborative value. It has hosted research papers and presentations that addressed a variety of topics and theoretical perspective. Examples include, but are not limited to personality, cultural psychology, social psychology, cognitive psychology, diversity, leadership, prejudice and discrimination, attitudes and social intelligence, social learning theory, self efficacy, behavioral theories, violence and aggression, attractions and affiliations in groups, and group psychology.

Over the years, the minitrack has attracted attendees from business schools, IS researchers with a psychological/sociological research focus, industrial/-organizational psychologists, and management researchers. At HICSS-46 a paper from this minitrack was honored as the best paper in the Collaboration Systems and Technologies Track.

While the earliest minitrack focused mainly on organizational contexts of technology use, later minitracks have shown an increasing focus on issues surrounding the use of social media by individuals, teams, and organizations. This focus is likely to remain dominant for the coming years as social media applications and technologies can still be considered in their formative phase yet are unlikely to fade away any time soon.

This year's minitrack features four papers that address a variety of topics:

- Connecting with Coworkers on Social Network Sites: Strategies, Social Norms and Outcomes on Work Relationships, by Ariane Ollier-Malaterre, and Kassandra Luneau-De Serre.
- The Effect of Software Team Personality Composition on Learning and Performance: Making the "Dream" Team, by Greg Anderson, Mark Keith, Julianne Fancisco, and Sarah Fox.
- The Effects of Different Emoticons on the Perception of Emails in the Workplace, by Claus-Peter Ernst, and Martin Huschens.
- Trusting in Machines: How Mode of Interaction Affects Willingness to Share Personal Information with Machines, by Juliana Schroeder, and Matthew Schroeder.

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