

Introduction to the HICSS-54 Minitrack on Innovative Behavioral IS Security and Privacy Research

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This minitrack provides a venue for innovative research that rigorously addresses the risks to information system security and privacy, with a specific focus on individual behaviors within this nomological net. Domains include work related to detecting, mitigating, and preventing both internal and external human threats to organizational security. Papers may include theory development, empirical studies (both quantitative and qualitative), case studies, and other high-quality research manuscripts.

This year, the minitrack features six papers addressing a range of behavioral security and privacy research questions that will stimulate further discussion and exploration of the key phenomena within this domain. Because the conference is a virtual one in 2021 due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, the six papers are not organized into separate groups or sessions.

- “Revealing the Cyber Security Non-Compliance “Attribution Gulf” is the best paper in our minitrack this year and was co-authored by Jacques Ophoff and Karen Renaud. This study explores the role of habitus as an explanation for security noncompliance rather than individual failings or ignorance.
- “How to Mitigate Security-Related Stress: The Role of Psychological Capital” is a paper by Muriel Frank and Vanessa Kohn which examines psychological capital to reduce stress caused by security requirements.
- “One Single Click is enough – an Empirical Study on Human Threats in Family Firm Cyber Security” by Patrick Ulrich, Vanessa Frank, and Ricardo Buettner” analyzes human versus technical risks in German firms to discover human weaknesses and opportunities to address those weaknesses through cyber security measures.

- “Understanding Unstable Information Systems Phenomena: A Punctuated Equilibrium Perspective” is by Robert E. Crossler, France Belanger, Carlos Torres, Allen C. Johnston, and Merrill Warkentin. Using examples from IS security research, the authors examine the issues surrounding unstable phenomena using a punctuated equilibrium lens and suggest research strategies and a research framework to help researchers conduct studies in this challenging environment.
- “How Motivation Shapes the Sharing of Information Security Experience” is from Muriel Frank and Clara Ament. To encourage employees to share their security incident experiences with co-workers in order to raise security awareness, the authors explore intrinsic motivators like strengthening the collaboration with coworkers (in contrast with extrinsic motivators such as monetary incentives).
- “How do employees learn security behavior? Examining the influence of individual cultural values and social learning on ISP compliance behavior” by Sebastian Hengstler, Natalya Pryazhnykova, and Simon Trang explores the relationship between social mechanisms such as social learning and employee’s individual cultural values in the context of information security policy compliance behavior.

We have scheduled an online virtual session for the authors to present their research and to engage in discussions with the virtual audience members following each paper. We believe that this year’s contributions will lead to interesting discussion and will advance our knowledge of information security within our discipline.