

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 minitracks 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 seven papers that address a variety of topics:

- Smart packaging in intralogistics: An evaluation study of human-technology interaction in applying new collaboration technologies, by Benedikt Maettig and Veronika Kretschmer.
- Emergent Roles in Computer-Mediated Synchronous Virtual Groups, by Jordan Barlow.
- Connections with Coworkers on Social Network Sites: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, by Ariane Ollier-Malaterre and Annie Foucreault.
- Get the Crowd Going – An Empirical Analysis toward a Crowdsourcing Engagement Model, by Nargess Tahmasbi and Henrik Sternberg.
- Friendly, Humorous, Incompetent? On the Influence of Emoticons on Interpersonal Perception in the Workplace, by Claus-Peter Ernst and Martin Huschens.
- When Interaction is Valuable: Feedback, Churn and Survival on Community Question and Answer Sites: The case of Stack Exchange, by Benny Bornfeld and Sheizaf Rafaeli.
- What is Engagement and How Do We Measure It? Toward a Domain Independent Definition and Scale, by Triparna de Vreede, Stephanie Andel, GJ de Vreede, Paul Spector, Vivek Singh, and Balaji Padmanabhan.