

ECSCW 2009

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Proceedings of the 11th European Conference
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Table of Contents

From the editors	vii
ECSCW 2009 Conference Committee	ix
ECSCW 2009 Program Committee	x
The boundaries of participatory citizenship <i>Nikolaj Gandrup Borchorst, Susanne Bødker and Pär-Ola Zander</i>	1
Research Project as Boundary Object: negotiating the conceptual design of a tool for International Development <i>Ann Light and Theresa Dirndorfer Anderson</i>	21
Supporting Nurses' Information Flow by Integrating Paper and Digital Charting <i>Charlotte Tang and Sheelagh Carpendale</i>	43
The eDiary: Bridging home and hospital through healthcare technology <i>Rikke Aarhus, Stinne Aaløkke Ballegaard and Thomas Riisgaard Hansen</i>	63
PRODOC: an Electronic Patient Record to Foster Process-Oriented Practices <i>Federico Cabitza, Carla Simone and Giovanni Zorzato</i>	85
Finding the other 5%: Understanding the role of social networking technologies in building personal networks for young adults with cancer <i>Shawn Ashkanasy, Frank Vetere, Graeme Shanks and Hilary Davis</i>	105
Trust and Social Capital: Revisiting an Offshoring Failure Story of a Small German Software Company <i>Alexander Boden, Bernhard Nett and Volker Wulf</i>	123
Return On Contribution (ROC): A Metric for Enterprise Social Software <i>Michael Muller, Jill Freyne, Casey Dugan, David Millen and Jennifer Thom-Santelli</i>	143
Collaborative Practices that Support Creativity in Design <i>Dhaval Vyas, Dirk Heylen, Anton Nijholt and Gerrit van der Veer</i>	151
'Talking about (my) Generation': Creativity, Practice, Technology & Talk <i>David Martin, Jacki O'Neill and Dave Randall</i>	171
Using Annotations in a Collective and Face-to-Face Design Situation <i>Sylvie Guibert, Françoise Darses and JF Boujut</i>	191

We can work it out: Collaborative Conflict Resolution in Model Versioning <i>Petra Brosch, Philip Langer, Martina Seidl, Konrad Wieland and Manuel Wimmer</i>	207
On the effects of Refactoring in the Coordination of Software Development Activities <i>Cleidson de Souza, Maryanne Rosa, Crys Goto, Jean Costa and Pedro Trecanno</i>	215
Divided by a common acronym: On the fragmentation of CSCW <i>Kjeld Schmidt</i>	223
Collaboration in Metagenomics: Sequence Databases and the Organization of Scientific Work <i>Matthew J. Bietz and Charlotte P. Lee</i>	243
Towards <i>LivingAgendas</i> - Shaping the next generation of business meetings <i>Till Schümmer, Hilda Tellioglu and Jörg M. Haake</i>	263
Analyzing Multimodal Communication around a Shared Tabletop Display <i>Anne Marie Piper and James D. Hollan</i>	283
Status on Display: a Field Trial of Nomatic*Viz <i>Xianghua Ding and Donald Patterson</i>	303
The ‘out-of-avatar experience’: object-focused collaboration in Second Life <i>Greg Wadley and Nicolas Ducheneaut</i>	323
Character Sharing in World of Warcraft <i>Nelson Wong, Anthony Tang, Ian Livingston, Carl Gutwin and Regan Mandryk</i>	343
High-Octane Work: The oil and gas workplace <i>Clint Heyer</i>	363
Asking for the moon: Or model-based coordination in distributed design <i>Kjeld Schmidt, Hilda Tellioglu and Ina Wagner</i>	383
Information Curators in an Enterprise File-Sharing Service <i>Michael Muller, David Millen and Jonathan Feinberg</i>	403
Index of authors	413

From the Editors

This volume represents the proceedings of ECSCW'09, the 11th European Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work, held in Vienna, Austria. Each conference offers an occasion to critically review our research field, which has been multidisciplinary and committed to high scientific standards, both theoretical and methodological, from its beginning. Ongoing discussion has identified several challenges, which also become visible in the conference programme. One challenge comes from emerging new technologies connected to 'social computing', gaming, as well as applications supporting citizen participation in their communities. To examine user experiences and collaborative aspects of these applications attracts the interest of many colleagues and also some newcomers to the field and there are some fine studies represented in this conference volume. As boundaries between home and work erode with the increased movement of work into home environments, and new applications further blur the once separate conceptions of work and leisure, our intellectual community faces challenges in the ways we think about and study work. Other challenges result from transformations of the world of work itself and the role of IT in these. They have been taken up in in-depth studies of design practice, software development, and manufacturing, as well as in the growing body of research on health care contexts and applications. In times of rapid societal change and crisis there is a need for examining not only the social relevance of CSCW research topics but also to look into the theoretical and methodological framework, on which this research is based and to try achieve greater conceptual clarity and methodological validity. Finally, there is the question of what is the European perspective in our community and whether it is worthwhile to anchor our research more firmly in such a perspective. Of high relevance to our field is the strong grounding of technology development in an understanding of human activity. In Europe we have a strong philosophical, sociological and anthropological research tradition, on which our community can build when augmenting human practice with new artefacts, media and infrastructures.

The nineteen full papers, four short papers and one discussion paper selected for this conference deal with and reflect on some of these challenges. They form the core of a single-track conference programme which is somehow a tradition in ECSCW. We are also excited about the 10 workshops and masterclasses that cover a broad range of topics and allow for wider and more active participation and will be published in the on-line supplementary proceedings, as well as the demonstrations, videos, and posters.

Many people have worked hard to ensure the success of this conference, and we briefly acknowledge them here: all the authors who submitted high quality papers; all those who contributed through taking part in workshops, masterclasses, demonstrations, and posters; the Programme Committee, which dedicated time and energy to reviewing and discussing individual contributions and shaping the programme; the student volunteers who provided support throughout the event; and all the sponsors and those who offered their support to the conference.

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