

Introduction to the Processes and Technologies for Small and Large Team Collaboration Minitrack

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Recent data show that collaboration is a key driver of performance in organizations. The impact of collaboration on organizational performance is more critical than strategic orientation or market and technological turbulence. Yet successful collaboration does not come without difficulty. Groups and teams need to overcome collaboration challenges such as groupthink, dominance, lack of efficiency and lack of focus. Successful collaboration requires support based on purposeful guidance and interventions to create groups and teams, to design and deploy processes, to design and deploy technology, to support leaders or facilitators, and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of information processing. The challenge for researchers and practitioners alike is to design sustainable processes and systems within and between organizations that allow people, groups and teams to collaborate successfully. This challenge has many dimensions, including a technical, a behavioral, a social, an emotional, an economical, and a political. This minitrack invites papers that address the design and deployment of collaboration processes and systems within and between organizations, groups, and teams.

This minitrack provides one of the key international platforms to discuss the following issues:

1. Facilitation methods, techniques, patterns, and thinkLets to support and improve (a)synchronous collaboration between co-located and distributed people, teams, or groups.
2. The design, application, and evaluation of collaboration support technologies; G(D)SS, groupware and meeting support technology.
3. Collaboration Engineering and the design, codification and reuse of work practices and pattern languages for group collaboration to create self-sustaining collaboration support in organizations.

4. Theoretical foundations and practical approaches to model and design high quality collaborative work practices.

This year's minitrack features four exciting papers.

The first paper, "Mining Hidden Profiles in the Collaborative Evaluation of Raw Ideas" by Horton and Goers, presents a facilitation algorithm for team evaluation during innovation processes. The authors use two examples to illustrate how the algorithm improves evaluation precision and transparency.

The second paper "Opening the Black Box of Team Processes and Emergent States: a Literature Review and Agenda for Research on Team Facilitation" by Seeber, Maier, and Weber, presents a structured literature review on the effect of group facilitation on team effectiveness. The authors uncover interesting insights on the state of research in this area and propose a research agenda to further the study of how human and automated facilitation affects team outcomes.

The third paper, "Easy Collaboration Process Support System Design for Student Collaborative Group Work: A Case Study" by Cheng, Li, Sun, and Zhu, propose a Process Support Systems (PSS) to support college students' collaborative group case studies. They present a case study to highlight the design and pilot test of the system.

The final paper, "Towards a Maturity Model for the Assessment of Ideation in Crowdsourcing Projects" by Boughzala, de Vreede, Nguyen, and de Vreede describes the conceptual design of a maturity model to assess ideation in crowdsourcing project, with a particular focus on crowd engagement and productivity.

We thank the authors for submitting their work to make this another engaging minitrack. We hope you enjoy the papers and their presentation at the conference.