

PANEL ON ALTERNATIVE VIEWS OF COOPERATIVE WORK IN THE OFFICE

Chaired by

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This panel will explore alternative views of the field of office systems and its relation to cooperative work. The office is, and always has been a prime focus of cooperative work. Much relevant research on cooperative work has been performed within the context of the office. The field known as "office automation" or "office systems" or "office future" seems not to have 'taken off' as a separate area of research and scholarly endeavor, although there have been notable advances. This panel will contain knowledgeable participants whose views concerning office systems range from highly positive and optimistic, to highly negative and pessimistic.

Specific questions to be addressed during each panelist's 15 minute statement include: What exactly is the field of office systems? Is it a valid field? Is it growing or dying? What are the field's past successes (failures) and its future? Finally, and importantly, how does the field fit with the cooperative work topic?