GROUP 2018 Special Issue Guest Editorial: Another 25 Years of GROUP

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For over 25 years, the ACM International Conference on Supporting Group Work (GROUP) has been and will continue to be the premier venue for research on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work, Human–Computer Interaction, Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning, and Socio-Technical Studies. The three papers in this special issue demonstrate GROUP's continued commitment to diverse research approaches, emerging technologies, and collaborative work. We hope you enjoy these papers and, like us, look forward to another 25 years of GROUP.

CCS Concepts: • **Human-centered computing** → *Collaborative interaction*; *Computer supported cooperative work*; *Social engineering (social sciences)*;

Additional Key Words and Phrases: Computer-supported cooperative work, human–computer interaction, computer-supported, collaborative learning, socio-technical studies

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1 INTRODUCTION

For over 25 years, the ACM International Conference on Supporting Group Work (GROUP) has been and will continue to be the premier venue for research on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work, Human–Computer Interaction, Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning, and Socio-Technical Studies. This conference integrates research across diverse fields of study, such as social science, computer science, engineering, design, values, and other diverse topics related to group

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work, broadly conceptualized. GROUP prides itself on its international and interdisciplinary orientation in both its organizational structure and participants.

This special issue marks a turning point for GROUP. This is the last time that papers accepted to GROUP will be published primarily as conference proceedings. Starting in 2020, full papers accepted to GROUP 2020 will be published as journal articles in the *Proceedings of the ACM on Human–Computer Interaction (PACM-HCI)* journal. Therefore, this is the last time that GROUP papers will reappear as part of a special issue in another journal. We believe that this necessitates a time to reflect not only on the papers in this special issue but on GROUP as a publication venue for the last 25 years.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Conference on Organizational Computing Systems

In 1984, the Conference on Organizational Computing Systems, the predecessor to GROUP, was convened—ironically—by the ACM Special Interest Group on Individual Computing Environment (SIGICE). Although the conference was directed at individual computing in traditional organizations, many of the original themes at that first conference still exist today. For example, Mary Sumner's "Office Automation: Organizational Learning and Technological Change" (Sumner 1984) and Ralf Reichwald's "Cooperation in the Office-Office Communication Systems as a Management Tool" (Reichwald 1984) both touch on themes such as learning, cooperation, communication and change that still persist in the papers published at GROUP. Even then, the conference welcomed a diverse set of research approaches. Several of the studies described themselves as qualitative rather than quantitative studies, mentioning the use of participation observation. However, the majority of the studies published in that 1984 conference could be described as more technical or system oriented. An example is the paper by Bogdan Czejdo and David W. Embley (Czejdo and Embley 1984), "Office Form Definition and Processing using a Relational Data Model." The paper by Luigia Aiello, Daniele Nardi, and Maurizio Panti, "Modeling the Office Structure: A First Step Towards the Office Expert System" (Aiello et al. 1984), also highlights the conference's focus on new and emerging technologies.

2.2 International ACM SIGGROUP Conference on Supporting Group Work

In 1997, the first International ACM SIGGROUP Conference on Supporting Group Work was held. Papers published in that conference continued the focus on work within the boundary of traditional organizations but also reflected the growing influence on the Internet. The paper by Rens Scheepers and Jan Damsgaard, "Using Internet Technology Within the Organization: A Structurational Analysis of Intranets" (Scheepers and Damsgaard 1997); and the work of Wolfgang Gräther, Wolfgang Prinz, and Sabine Kolvenbach, "Enhancing Workflows by Web Technology" (Gräther et al. 1997), are two examples. Although no longer the majority, several studies published in that 1997 conference could be described as technical or system oriented. Examples include the paper by Andy Cockburn and Tony Dale, "CEVA: A Tool for Collaborative Video Analysis" (Cockburn and Dale 1997), and the work of Steve Benford, Dave Snowdon, Andy Colebourne, Jon O'Brien, and Tom Rodden, "Informing the Design of Collaborative Virtual Environments" (Benford et al. 1997).

2.3 Group 2018

In 2018, GROUP was held in Sanibel Island, Florida, its permanent location since 2003. GROUP 2018 represents the most selective acceptance rate thus far: 23.4%. Although many of the papers continue to represent themes related to work, the focus has shifted toward work outside the traditional organizational boundaries. Themes include crowdsourcing, peer production, co-creation,

and online communities. Examples include the work of Yu Jiang, Yuling Sun, Jing Yang, Xin Lin, and Liang He, "Enabling Uneven Task Difficulty in Micro-Task Crowdsourcing" (Jiang et al. 2018); and the work of Fabio Calefato, Giuseppe Iaffaldano, and Filippo Lanubile, "Collaboration Success Factors in an Online Music Community" (Calefato et al. 2018). Research on social computing that focuses on the use of computing in the daily lives of individuals is also present. For example, topics related to the impact of social media on well-being are represented in a paper by Shion Guha, Eric P. S. Baumer, and Geri K. Gay, "Regrets, I've Had a Few: When Regretful Experiences Do (and Don't) Compel Users to Leave Facebook" (Guha et al. 2018). Again, a diverse set of research approaches are well represented in 2018, ranging from large quantitative or computational "big data" papers to qualitative ethnographic studies. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of the program chairs, very few—if any—papers could be labeled as technical or system oriented.

2.4 Group 2018 Special Issue

This brings us to this special issue of *ACM Transactions on Social Computing*, which contains a collection of three papers from GROUP 2018. The 2018 edition of GROUP attracted a total of 94 regular paper submissions, spanning over numerous emerging research topics. The conference program committee selected 22 papers to be presented at the conference and published in the conference proceedings. The three papers for this special issue were selected from among all the accepted papers by the special issue guest editors: Andrea Forte, Claudia Müller, Michael Prilla, Lionel P. Robert, Jr., and Adriana S. Vivacqua. Guest editors selected papers based on their reviews of the conference version of the papers and relevance to the journal. The authors were asked to revise their paper in accordance with customary practice, adding 25% new materials. The revised papers went through two more rounds of a normal journal-style review process. We appreciate the willingness of the authors and reviewers in helping to make this special issue possible.

The three papers in this special issue demonstrate GROUP's continued commitment to diverse research approaches, emerging technologies and collaborative work. In "Permeability, Interoperability, and Velocity: Entangled Dimensions of Infrastructural Grind at the Intersection of Blockchain and Shipping," the authors present an ethnographic study of the introduction of blockchain technology in the shipping industry; in "Modeling User Intrinsic Characteristic on Social Media for Identity Linkage," authors study the problem of topic modeling based on users' interaction behaviors with respect to content topics; and in "Analyzing Payment-Driven Targeted Q and A Systems," the authors study key challenges to motivating domain experts to quickly provide high-quality answers to requestors. We hope that you enjoy these papers and, like us, look forward to another 25 years of GROUP.

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