

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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