Cognitive effort and knowledge sharing play a critical role in the successful completion of knowledge intensive collaborative tasks. Such tasks require extensive coordination and sense making to facilitate joint problem solving and the creation of shared mental models. Furthermore, multiple heads often come with multiple stakes and perspectives, which can lead to conflict and often require trust building and negotiation. Therefore, the cognitive load involved in collaborative tasks is likely to be higher than in individual tasks, and requires special attention when designing collaboration support.

Understanding cognitive load and cognitive activities involved in collaboration may offer insight into design principles that enable efficient and effective use of cognitive capacity. The intent of this mintrack is to provide an outlet for such research and encourage research that explores the individual cognitive perspective when studying collaboration.

Four papers were selected to be presented in this year’s mintrack on cognitive perspectives in collaboration.

- **Sparking Creativity: Improving Electronic Brainstorming with Individual Cognitive Priming** is about new approaches to stimulate creativity in electronic brainstorming.
- **Time Pressure, Cultural Diversity, Psychological Factors, and Information Sharing in Short Duration Virtual Teams** is about virtual teams and how their performance is affected by motivation and trust under time pressure.
- **Cognitive Load in Collaboration – Convergence** is about the cognitive activities involved in convergence, and how these can be supported to reduce cognitive load.
- **Toward Better Solutions: An Analysis of the Ideation Literature In Light of Bounded Ideation Theory** examines ideation research published at HICSS over the past 17 years from a cognitive perspective.

Many of the phenomena that have been studied in collaboration and collaboration technology research have a strong tie to cognition. Examples include anonymity in brainstorming, shared understanding in convergence, preference and trust in decision making and shared mental models in collaborative modeling.

The papers in this mintrack theorize about these phenomena from a cognitive perspective and may offer insight for design collaboration techniques and tools that are more intuitive for groups and teams, and that make them more efficient and effective in achieving their goals. Each article offers a unique contribution to our understanding of how cognitive effort is balanced between individual cognitive tasks and understanding the perspectives of others. We commend them to your reading, and hope they will inspire your research and practice.