Introduction to Global Virtual Teams

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The Global Virtual Teams mini-track has existed since HICSS 42 and continues to attract many high quality papers that push the frontiers of knowledge in global virtual team practice and research.

Operating in a global setting enabled with distributed and virtual teams has become the norm for many organizations. As the organizational form has become more dominant, the type of work being executed by said form is evolving as well, with an increased focus on strategic complex tasks that have a high degree of ambiguity associated with them. This shift, along with the unique challenge of working virtually with individuals and sub-groups from different countries, with different cultures and different first languages continues to ensure that global virtual research is an exciting and relevant topic of inquiry.

This mini-track focuses on the investigation of theoretical and empirical issues about effective management and operation of global virtual teams in today's dynamic business, scientific and technology environments.

Three papers were accepted to this year’s mini-track. The first paper is informed by organizational discontinuity theory and posits that temporal boundaries are not symmetrical to global collaborators and that small time differences are often more challenging than large time differences in global virtual work. Based on interview data temporal-related characteristics are shown to play important roles in emerging discontinuities and continuities in global virtual work. The second paper presents research on how the social presence dimensions of copresence, psychological involvement and behavioral engagement were organized in social interaction within virtual worlds. Finally the third paper in this year’s mini-track adds insight into communication practices within the exciting new organizational form of agile global outsourced software development (AGOSD). Specifically the paper identifies previously undiscovered agile communication practices with AGOSD environment.

Once again, we feel privileged and excited to be co-chairing this year’s Global Virtual Team mini-track. We look forward to seeing everyone and having productive and stimulating discussions based on the excellent papers that have been accepted.