Technology supported collaboration and communication between individuals entails complex social and psychological situations. An understanding of social and psychological aspects of collaboration is essential to creating productive work environments. The use of collaboration and communication systems is framed by the psychological and social factors concerning the users and their work environment. It is important to understand these factors to successfully facilitate the sustained use of these technologies. Further, knowledge of the psychosocial aspects of technology-supported collaboration and communication also assists in detecting, avoiding, and effectively resolving issues that may arise from using such technologies. This minitrack provides a venue for studying issues related to the dynamic interplay between people, their environment, and the collaboration technologies they use to create collaborative value.

This year, the minitrack accepted 5 papers. The first paper by Sobotta, “A Systematic Literature Review on the Relation of Information Technology and Information Overload” investigates the link between information technology and information overload through a structured literature review. The author identifies a number of research gaps and lays out an agenda for future research.

The second paper by Sobotta, “How E-Mail Threads Contribute to E-Mail Overload: Investigating Intrinsic, Extraneous, and Germane Cognitive Load” applies Cognitive Load Theory to investigate information overload caused by email. The paper proposes a set of hypotheses and validated measures that can be applied in future research studies in this area.

The third paper by Randrup, Druckenmiller, and Briggs, “Towards a Philosophy of Collaboration” reports on the authors’ efforts to formulate a philosophy of collaboration that will serve to bridge between isolated disciplinary communities of collaboration researchers. The paper offers epistemological, metaphysical, and axiological insights about collaboration that ground future research debates across disciplines.

In the fourth paper, “Measurement and Outcomes of Identity Communication in Virtual Teams”, Brown, Thatcher, and Wilson present the results of the first phase of a sequence of three studies to investigate the effect of communication medium capabilities on virtual identity development.

The final paper, “How IT-artifacts Disturb Advice Giving – Insights From Analyzing Implicit Communication” by Kilic, Dolata, and Schwabe looks at the effects of IT disturbances in interpersonal communication. Their results indicate that feedback in conversation suffers a lot from the introduction of IT suggesting that the design of communication and collaboration technologies need to take these effects into account in terms of functionality and user guidance.