Introduction to Emerging Issues in Distributed Group Decision-Making: Opportunities and Challenges track

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This mini track addresses emerging issues, such as diversity, culture, adaptability and agility related to teams in distributed group decision-making, as well as the underlying theories of group dynamics, coordination, and communications. The papers submitted specifically examined the emerging issues related to team configuration, crowd sourcing and performance in a distributed environment.

The mini track attracted several papers related to various aspects of distributed decision making. Accepted papers study emerging issues of trust, non-trust, diversity and behavior in distributed group decision-making. The first paper discusses a videoconferencing tool which displays video streams of all participants and a Virtual Meeting Room portraying participants as avatars around one table. Paper discusses issues that arise with delegating power to technology, privacy concerns arise. Authors found that privacy concerns that arise from videoconferencing do not have to become issues if certain requirements are met. The second paper discusses pitfall, deviant behavior, of collaboration. This paper investigates antecedents of online deviant behavior. Their results indicate that impulsiveness, moral relativity, the perception of harm to others, and guilt influence the propensity for computer users to commit deviant acts. The authors also discuss implications and limitations of this work, as well as directions for future research. The third paper investigate users’ subjective sense of security, which is called Anshin in Japanese. Authors designed an improved questionnaire to study information security based on brainstorming and the KJ method. Authors found four factors “Perceived Benevolence", "Perceived competence and Integrity", "User’s Intuition" and "Reputation of the company from third party”. Authors also discuss construction of an Anshin model for users without technical knowledge using those factors. The fourth paper discusses disaster collaboration among people from heterogeneous backgrounds during Japanese earthquake in 2011. Paper discusses how trust played an important role in such communications. In addition, the paper discusses author’s experiences during this collaboration.

Each of the four papers is timely, as they address emerging issues related to distributed group decision-making. The distributed group decision making area is still emerging and research is conflicting. As long as research produces mixed results, there will be continual need for validation and replication of experiments and development of new underlying theories.