Introduction to the Minitrack on Emerging Issues in Distributed Group Decision-Making: Opportunities and Challenges

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This mini track addresses emerging issues, such as diversity, culture, adaptability, mobility and agility related to teams in distributed group decision-making, as well as the underlying theories of group dynamics, coordination, and communications in both swift and ad-hoc groups. The papers submitted specifically examined the emerging issues related to team configuration, diversity 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. In the first paper authors use Media Synchronicity Theory and Social Network Analysis to analyze how the structure of collaboration networks change when collaborating teams become temporally dispersed. Authors concluded that the collaboration structure networks of more temporally dispersed teams are sparser and more centralized, and these associations are stronger in those teams exhibiting higher relative performance. In the second paper authors discuss swift groups which have not been studies in great details. Dynamics of these groups are complex because of short duration of the projects. Authors found that diversity impacts decision making in swift groups. They also found evidence that social diversity creates sub-groups which impact group decision making.

In the third paper authors report how the user security knowledge level could influence the factors of Anshin for online shopping users. Authors conducted a Web survey and divided the subjects into two groups which have low and high security knowledge level and analyzed each group. Authors we found a difference between the two sub-groups in high security knowledge level groups. As a result, they concluded that there are different Anshin factors in accordance with the user security knowledge level. Moreover, they showed that Anshin factors might also affect other attributes when user security knowledge level is high. In the fourth paper authors discuss the factors that influence the continuance in usage of smartphones in globally distributed teams. Authors concluded that both familiarity with a smartphone and cognitive trust in the integrity of a smartphone have a positive and significant effect on smartphone continuance usage. Also, both accessibility of smartphone and smartphone satisfaction have a positive and significant effect on cognitive trust in the integrity of a smartphone.

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.

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