TRACK 29

ENGLISH VERSION

Talk, then prototype.
Arguing out controversies over digital design processes - Fishbowl Discussions

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Information technologies solve vital problems but they are also a major source of social anxiety and conflict. In this track we are exploring the feasibility of an actor informed approach to technological design processes as tool to uncover the sociotechnical formation of society. The goal of our track is to show how perspective shapes meaning-making about ICT and underlying ideas on the constitution of societies. Awareness about the multiplicity of perspectives within design processes might have the potential to mitigate sociotechnical vulnerabilities.

The shaping of the digital society is based on technological design decisions. Desired requirements might however vary between different actors, such as developers, engineers, users, civil society actors or politicians. The management of conflicting requirements is a central task, but requires the visibility of different perspectives on technology themselves. In practice, some actors have a more powerful position to initially define requirements. Overlooking conflicts might backlash as technological vulnerabilities.

Examples are conflicts between safety requirements and "light and cheap" design principles, between privacy and comfort requirements of users or between economies of scale and sustainability.

We choose a fishbowl discussion format to confront underlying controversies over design requirements with each other. Such a discussion stands for an ideal sociotechnical design process that provides exchange and critique. Insights won from these discussions might loopback into suggestions how to better organize processes of technology development in general.

This call is open to proposals from different disciplines and fields (such as engineering, design, economics, STS scholars and others) to participate in a multi perspective fishbowl discussion on design requirements in ICT. Fishbowls are a good method for discussing controversial issues. In contrast to regular discussions fishbowls only start with invited discussants selected from proposals, then after an initial phase open up additional discussion seats for the wider session audience and allow for dynamic participation.

Submissions should state positions on requirements in ICT they want to advocate, and name discussants for the fishbowl. Proposals may cover topics for discussion from a single perspective (one discussant required) or already as multi-perspective (several discussants required). Organizers will select and match discussants from proposals.

We are especially interested in proposals from but not limited to areas such as:
- Smart City and/or Smart Living applications
- Infrastructures to support applications
- Privacy Enhancing Technologies