



January 4-7, 2011, The Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa, Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii.

Track: Internet and the Digital Economy

Minitrack: Social Networking and Communities

This minitrack focuses primarily on social networks and their interrelations with communities, both online and offline, in the context work, learning, social and/or personal life. We would like to attract papers that address issues of online communities of practice, inquiry and interest created in the interest of political, educational, business, social and/or gaming pursuits, and with attention to how online community building and management contribute to success in the digital economy and society. At present, there is tremendous research interest in these topics, driven by the fact that these sociological phenomena are changing the way people work, play and socialize, and how they spend their time and money. Accordingly, billions of dollars are being spent by businesses and consumers on these technologies, and the rate of adoption has been phenomenal, while empirical and theoretical work on social and technical design, and economic and social outcomes lag behind.

We call for empirical and theoretical papers that add to our understanding of the social, political, and economic landscape of communities and social networks at work, school, home, play and in society. Examples of the possible interdisciplinary topics of interest in these contexts include, but are not limited to the following:

- Social, political and/or economic impact of social media
- Communities as sociological phenomenon in the digital economy
- Community development and community informatics
- Design, development, and user studies of social media
- Online communities of practice, inquiry or interest
- Business models of Second Life
- E-learning: structures, implementations, and practices
- Serious leisure communities online
- Organizational behavior of communities
- Social network studies and analyses of online communities
- Mobile applications, services and use for and by online communities
- Case studies and topologies of online communities
- Case studies and analyses of the rise and fall of social network sites and online communities
- Theoretical models of virtual worlds
- Advertising in online communities and social networks
- Models for managing behavior in online communities
- Behavior in online gaming communities
- Models and cases of synergies and/or conflicts between real and virtual worlds
- Diffusion and adoption of social networking applications and practices
- Development of social networking applications and practices
- Critical perspectives on social media and local and/or virtual community
- Disruptive strategies of virtual worlds
- Anti-social behavior in online social networks and communities
- Legal and ethical issues in social networking and virtual worlds
- Privacy and security issues

Minitrack Co-chairs

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Caroline Haythornthwaite is professor at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research examines how the Internet and computer media support and affect work, learning, and social interaction, focusing on how information is exchanged, knowledge is shared and co-constructed, collaboration happens, and community forms. Studies have examined social networks of work and media use, the development and nature of community online, communication issues for new online learners, distributed knowledge processes, and the nature and constraints of interdisciplinary collaboration. Major publications include *The Internet in Everyday Life* (2002, edited with Barry Wellman); *Learning, Culture and Community in Online Education: Research and Practice* (2004, edited with Michelle M. Kazmer), a special issue of *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication* on *Computer-Mediated Collaborative Practices and Systems* (2005), the *Handbook of Elearning Research* (2007, edited with Richard Andrews), and *E-learning Research and Practice* (forthcoming, 2011, with Richard Andrews). She has presented frequently at HICSS and co-chaired five mini-tracks (two in Knowledge Management; three in Internet and Digital Economy).

Karine Barzilai-Nahon is assistant professor in the Information School at the University of Washington. Her research deals with business and social aspects of the Internet and the telecommunication industry. Formerly she held senior positions in Research and Development in the hi-tech industry, and currently is consulting on issues of electronic commerce, virtual communities, and privacy. Her academic education encompasses Computer Science, Political Science, and Management of Information Systems. Additionally, she was the coordinator and a member of the Communication and Informatics Committee for UNESCO in Israel, and participated in the WSIS (World Summit of Information Society) as a representative of the Israeli delegation. She is involved in different international task forces that deal with Internet policy.

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