Editor's welcome

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It is our pleasure to welcome you to the first PACMHCI GROUP issue. For over 25 years, the GROUP research community has supported the development of robust scholarship at the intersection of Computer Supported Cooperative Work, Human Computer Interaction, Computer Supported Collaborative Learning and Socio-Technical Studies. This volume is the latest product of our efforts to validate and integrate the strong work happening within this broadly-conceived community.

We hope that the range of papers presented here reflects our intent to be international, interdisciplinary, and inclusive, both in our organization of the review process as well as within the set of accepted papers. This first PACM journal volume in the GROUP series features studies of collaboration in multiple settings, including social networks, editing systems, and mixed reality. It also showcases sociotechnical studies in domains ranging from outdoor activities to scientific projects.

As Editors, we are particularly pleased to continue the legacy of presenting and disseminating the new and exciting work being developed in our community. We come together every two years to creatively display and build off of ideas from a wide range of disciplinary and topical areas including computer science, design, engineering, information science, management science, sociology, work and labor studies, and values-in-design, among others.

This journal issue also highlights work that stems from the Design Fiction (DF) track at GROUP. Begun at GROUP 2016, the DF track represents our community’s growing interest in critical
and philosophical studies by providing a space to examine the values, assumptions, narratives, and commitments implicit in the futures imagined by technology research and design. Design Fictions envision fictional configurations of technology and humans to help elucidate and concretize alternative paths towards a desirable technological future. A DF submission consists of two portions: a fictional document related to some aspect of social technology, and an author statement about the document. The author statement plays a key role by situating the fictional document within current research and articulating how the piece as a whole offers a contribution to HCI, CSCW, CSCL, socio-technical studies, or related literature. We are excited that the inclusion of this emerging genre of scholarship in PACM continues to accentuate our community’s inclusivity regarding the pantheon of methods we use to grapple with complex societal questions around technology design.

This inaugural PACMHCI GROUP journal issue would not have been possible without the efforts of many. There would be no papers without the authors that produced them and sent them to us for consideration. The papers would go nowhere without the dedicated efforts of the program committee members who oversee (and sometimes corral) a host of reviewers brought on board from around the world to establish, via two rounds of review, accurate assessments of each individual contribution. Once accepted, those papers need to be shaped and formed into the products you see today, a responsibility which rests not only on the authors but also on the capable shoulders of publication chairs, the publisher, and many others who engage in the invisible work that operates too often outside of our view. We acknowledge gratefully all of this labor and hope we can–together–celebrate our collective achievement.

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