

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

Anil K. Aggarwal  
University of Baltimore  
USA  
[aaggarwal@ubalt.edu](mailto:aaggarwal@ubalt.edu)

Doug Vogel  
Harbin Institute of Technology  
PRC  
[isdoug@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:isdoug@cityu.edu.hk)

Yuko Murayama  
Tsuda College  
Japan  
[murayama@tsuda.ac.jp](mailto:murayama@tsuda.ac.jp)

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, communication challenges and performance in a distributed environment.

The mini track attracted several papers related to various aspects of distributed decision making. Accepted papers study disaster recovery and monitoring of elderly people remotely, discuss Nuances of 'Wickedness' in Information Systems Development and study changes in Communication Patterns in Teams Implementing Lean practices. In the First paper authors have developed a tool which provides users with easy coding to get body information and face recognition. They propose possible use cases such as a remote monitor system for elderly care with privacy as well as a monitor system for shelters at disaster. In the second paper authors discuss challenges of developing Information Systems (ISD). They argue that the scale of the challenge is often heightened in distributed environments where ISD practitioners can face considerable complexity, uncertainty, and contention. The concept of 'wickedness' epitomizes such challenges. Authors use a theoretical framework to analyze case study findings from an interdisciplinary connected health project. In particular, they break open the social aspects of wickedness and explore their impact on shared understanding and shared commitment in ISD projects. Authors also highlight the implications that these nuances have for group decision-making in distributed ISD project teams.

In the third paper authors contend changes in Team dynamics in companies implementing the Lean production paradigm are not clearly understood, and literature has overlooked success factors for the implementation of such systems. Authors argue that the parameters describing communication networks change dramatically as a number of teams embark on a Lean transformation. Authors show that business units succeeding in their implementation of Lean undergo a drastic transformation in their teams' communication patterns, and this change is more pronounced in more successful cases.

Each of the above paper 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.