

Collaboration in a Changing 21st Century Context*

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Abstract. Ever since Kurt Lewin over 60 years ago began to scientifically study groups, group characteristics have generally been treated as stable. However, groups instead should be viewed as dynamic and situational. I will highlight how the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is changing the way that groups form, organize, and conduct work. I will draw on my research in distributed collaboration to illustrate how ICT is changing the notion of group scalability, sociability, membership, dynamics, coordination, mobility, and interaction. I will discuss challenges in supporting groups as collaboration becomes more commonplace on a global scale.

* Invited keynote talk.