Preface

This volume contains selected papers presented at STPIS'22: The 8th International Conference on Socio-Technical Perspective in Information Systems (STPIS'22), which took place in a hybrid setting and the participants could choose to participate online, or at the location at Reykjavik University in Iceland. The local organizing chair was Anna Sigridur Islind, associate professor at Reykjavik University in Iceland and the co-chair was Helena Vallo Hult, assistant professor at University West in Sweden.

Importance of socio-technical perspective in research and practice

A socio-technical perspective sees an organization as a combination of two components – a social and a technical one. The real pattern of behaviour in the organization is determined by how well these parts fit each other. While analysing system problems of getting things done, adequate consideration should be given to technology as well as informal and formal interactions of people. Despite that a socio-technical perspective has been around for over a half century, it is often forgotten in the IS discourse today. Consequently, many "new approaches" appear to reflect on IS systems problems, such as modern IT systems poorly adjusted to the external or/and internal environment (e.g. market, organizational culture) of organizations in which they are (to be) deployed. We strongly believe that it is high time the social-technical perspective took its rightful place in IS research, practice and teaching.

STPIS'22

The main purpose of STPIS'22 was to spark discussions on using a socio-technical perspective in information systems, with the long-term goal of making this event a recurring meeting place for the community of IS researchers and practitioners interested in the socio-technical approach. We were interested in utilizing the 'good' things that we had learned during the pandemic, to cater to a broader audience by hosting the conference in a hybrid format. The hybrid format was a true success, and every other presentation was held at Reykjavik University, alternating with a virtual presentation. Moreover, the session chair role alternated between those in the organizing team that were physically present at Reykjavik University and those in the virtual space. The sessions were organized to fit within the two days with a great turn out of interesting discussions.

These proceedings are a continuation from previous year's attempt to provide a broad forum for discussion and debate on the benefits and problems of viewing information systems as socio-technical arrangements. There were 33 papers submitted by different international authors. Of these, 25 papers were accepted for presentation after a double blind review. The authors of accepted papers were invited to further revise their submissions as short or long papers for inclusion in the STPIS'22 proceedings. Each submission was reviewed by members of the program committee and members of the organizing committee. These 25 papers were presented at the conference with approximately 60 participants. The submissions were of various kinds, from research in progress papers to full-fledged research papers. Some papers were reclassified, e.g. from a research paper to a position paper. We have gone through all 25 papers and put them in groups, not always perfect, but reasonably related. For this we did not only consider the main subject of a paper, but also what it could be related to. The topics cover various application domains where a socio-technical perspective can be used, such as work system, organizational change, education, industry 4.0 and industry 5.0, systemic sustainability, sociotechnical security, all related to individual and organizational issues, production, storage, healthcare, etc. The program included a keynote by David Boje. The keynote was devoted to spreading the relevance of socio-technical approaches in contemporary society, focusing specifically on the meaning of time.

Acknowledgements

STPIS 2022 Organizing Committee

Peter Bednar
Anna Sigridur Islind
Helena Vallo Hult
Alexander Nolte
Mikko Rajanen
Fatema Zaghloul
Aurelio Ravarini
Alessio Maria Braccini

Local Organizing Chair
Anna Sigridur Islind

Organizing co-chair
Helena Vallo Hult

Advisory Board
Steven Alter
Ilia Bider
Per Flensburg
Thomas Herrmann
Stewart Kowalski
Eleanor Wynn

Program Committee
Peter Bednar, University of Portsmouth & Lund Univ., Sweden
Alex Bennett, University of Portsmouth, UK
Ilia Bider, Stockholm Univ., Sweden
Francesco Bolici, UniCLAM, Italy
Alessio Maria Braccini, Università degli Studi della Tuscia, Italy
Federico Cabitza, Universita degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Italy
Linnéa Carlsson, Univ. West, Sweden
Andrea Carugati, Aarhus U., Denmark
Roberta Cuel, Univ. of Trento, Italy
Jonathan Crellin, RMIT U., Vietnam
David Edwards, Independent Researcher, Philippines
Amany Elbanna, Royal Holloway University of London, UK
Umberto Fiaccadori, Lund U, Sweden

Antoine Harfouche, Univ. Paris Nanterre, France
Helena Vallo Hult, University West & NU Hospital Group, Sweden
Anna Sigridur Islind, Reykjavik University, Iceland
Joakim Kavrestad, University of Skovde, Sweden
Markus Lahtinen, Lund U., Sweden
Marija Topuzovska Latkovikj, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia
Angela Locoro, LIUC – Università Cattaneo, Italy
Emanuele Gabriel Margherita, Univ. degli Studi della Tuscia, Italy
Alexander Nolte, University of Tartu, Estonia & Carnegie Mellon University, USA
Mariusz Nowostawski, NTNU, Norway
Federico Pigni, Grenoble Ecole de Management, France
Mikko Rajanen, Oulu Univ., Finland
Gil Regev, EPFL, Switzerland
Moufida Sadok, University of Portsmouth, UK
Natalie Pang Lee San, National University of Singapore
Vasilena Shiderova, Independent Researcher and Consultant, Bulgaria
Paolo Spagnoletti, LUISS, Italy
Laura Tarantino, University of L'Aquila, Italy
Sara Willermark, Univ. West, Sweden
Christine Welch, University of Portsmouth, UK
Eleanor Wynn, Ronin Institute for Independent Scholarship, USA
Fatema Zaghloul, University of Southampton, UK
Stefano Za, University of Chieti-Pescara, Italy

Proceedings of STPIS'22
Edited by Peter Bednar, Anna Sigríður Íslind, Helena Vallo-Hult, Alexander Nolte, Mikko Rajanen, Fatema Zaghloul, Aurelio Ravarini and Alessio Maria Braccini.

8th International Workshop on Socio-Technical Perspective in IS development (STPIS 2021) 11-12 October 2021, Trento, Italy