Workshop on Sociotechnical Approaches to Fieldwork and Trace Data Integration

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Abstract
The 2015 Sociotech Workshop focuses attention to the possibilities of leveraging trace data (data that is created from the use or presence of digital artifacts and interactions) with data collected through fieldwork. This combination is sociotechnical both in its form and value to better engaging human/ machine interactions. To this end, the workshop provides a forum for: (1) introducing scholars to the basic conceptual premises of sociotechnical scholarship; (2) sociotech scholars to advance their own work and thinking relative to the opportunities of combining the various types of evidence gathered through fieldwork with the range of trace data possibilities that are emerging. Like the seven previous pre-iConference Sociotech Workshops, this event also provides participants an introduction to the Consortium for the Science of Sociotechnical Systems (CSST). The CSST serves a trans-disciplinary community, connecting like-minded scholars from many different intellectual communities whose interests are towards the mutual constitution of social and technological phenomena. A 250-word position paper is due March 9; see the iConference workshop web page for details.
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Goals or Outcomes:
We anticipate three take-aways from the workshop:

1) Participants will each draw from the panels, working sessions and discussions insights and guidance for their own work. For some, this might be as simple as more guidance regarding sociotechnical perspectives.
2) Participants will learn and share new perspectives in the role and practice of trace data in sociotechnical research.
3) We will use the Sociotech community's web presence (http://sociotech.net) as the forum for the workshop materials, adding to this community resource.

Description:
Since 2008, pre-iConference sociotechnical workshops have provided a regular forum for bringing together researchers from a wide range of disciplines found in iSchools (and iSchool-like spaces) to develop a common identity and shared scholarly community as we work to understand diverse and important sociotechnical issues. The 2015 workshop advances the work of previous sociotech workshops at the iConference, focusing attention on opportunities to leverage both fieldwork and trace data (defined below) in pursuit of sociotechnical scholarship.

This workshop will also provide an introduction to both the Consortium for the Science of Sociotechnical Systems (CSST) and the Digital Society and Technologies' Research Coordination Network, which serve a trans-disciplinary community and connects like-minded scholars from many different intellectual communities whose interests are oriented towards the mutual constitution of social and technological phenomena.

Sociotech researchers focus on improving human lives through understanding sociotechnical systems, conducting research on human activities including collaboration, creativity, learning, and economic production in domains spanning healthcare, education, workplaces, social life, science, leisure, and computing. As a result, sociotech researchers must utilize methodologies and approaches that enable them to understand both social and technical aspects of human organization.

The 2015 Sociotech Workshop focuses attention on the possibilities of leveraging *trace data* (data created from the use or presence of digital artifacts and interactions) with data collected through fieldwork (such as field notes, images, interview transcripts, and other materials). This combination can be used to better engage or reflect upon human–machine interactions (for both design- and analysis-oriented goals). Given the range of possibilities and arrangements among these data, the goal of this workshop is to frame opportunities and provide considerations for pursuing these types of integrative research and design efforts.

The workshop will take place in two sessions spanning the full day in order to address two distinct goals:
1. Provide a forum for introducing scholars to the basic conceptual premises of sociotechnical scholarship.
2. Provide a forum for sociotech scholars to advance their own work and thinking in light of emerging opportunities to integrate various types of trace data with traditional fieldwork approaches.

The first goal supports our interest in helping scholars learn more about the broad intellectual space of sociotechnical scholarship and, in doing this, to situate the sociotechnical perspective relative to other approaches to studying how people and digital artifacts interact. The second goal is directed towards helping current sociotech scholars to advance their work relative to the specific themes of this year's workshop. Both goals are linked by the attention to sociotechnical approaches and this year's specific focus on appropriating a combination of trace data and fieldwork.

Format:
The 2015 Sociotech Workshop is designed as two sessions, with the first providing an opportunity for orienting new participants and the second more focused on ways in which trace data and fieldwork data can be combined and leveraged. The ordering and design of these sessions means that participants in the morning session will be able to continue developing and refining ideas in the afternoon. Additionally, participants can join in for just the afternoon session

to join in the conversation about how emerging sociotech data collection methods can be used to advance their work.

The expectation is that participants will come prepared. To that end, we ask all participants to submit a short position paper (500 words) sent to ssawyer@syr.edu before 9 March, 2014. This short position paper should contain a working title; the submitter's name, affiliation and contact information including email; an indication of intent to participate in the AM, PM or both sessions, either (a) a particular concern or opportunity with leveraging trace data and fieldwork data or, (b) identify a particular phenomena, situation or event that provides an opportunity for creative combinations of trace data and fieldwork; and no more than three references. Prior to the workshop, we will use these position papers to organize small groups for the morning (with each group led by a workshop co-organizer or confederate) and in small groups in the afternoon (arranged to create synergistic interactions).

Detailed Workshop Timetable:
0900   Welcome, participant introductions, and overview of the CSST sociotechnical community workshop.
0930   Working Panel: Experiences from the social science perspective: Three scholars present five minute overviews of how they draw in trace data in support of their fieldwork.
0950   Working Panel: Experiences from the computational perspective: Three scholars present five minute overviews of how they draw in trace data in support of their fieldwork.
1015   Break
1030   Collaborative work in small groups to leverage and reflect on what has been discussed to advance particular interests and issues as presented.
1130   Concluding discussion: Insights on opportunities, open issues, and next steps. Some of these can be considered in the afternoon.
1200   Lunch break

Afternoon session
1315   Welcome and introduction to afternoon sessions
1330   Breakout groupwork (organized by shared interests and themes): Tackling the challenges and opportunities of Sociotechnical Fieldwork and Trace Data Integration
1430   Break
1500   Breakout group reports
1545   Updates from and discussion with the CSST sociotech.net infrastructure team
1615   Planning follow-on opportunities/outcomes and closing remarks
1630   Workshop End
PM   Optional Dinner/social event to follow

Expected/Preferred Number of Participants:

We expect up to 30 people in the morning session (including organizers), but will grow to 40 IF there is demand. For the afternoon, we expect 40 participants, and can grow to 50 if there is demand.