CFP: 2022 ICA Pre-conference on Human-Machine Communication

Title: Human-Machine Communication: Bridging Worlds, Bridging Networks

Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022 [Full Day; 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.]

Venue: on-site at the ICA22 conference venue

Description:

The sixth annual pre-conference of Human-Machine Communication (HMC) aims to build bridges and foster dialogues across ICA's breadth of communication research methodologies, contexts of study, regions of practice, and epistemological traditions as we continue empirical and theoretical investigation of communication between humans and technologies such as chatbots, social robots, smart assistants, and machine environments. In building these bridges, it also seeks to identify and codify the theories, methods, boundaries, and possibilities that characterize HMC as a sub-discipline.

- What unique methodological approaches and considerations does the context of HMC necessitate? Is there “HMC methodology”?  
- What constitutes the theoretical foundations and theoretical innovations of HMC?  
- Relatedly, what is required of theory to be considered HMC theory?  
- Which other subfields of communication does HMC implicate? Which must be engaged, and why?  
- What have we learned (methodologically, theoretically, empirically, or critically) from the study of HMC that may contribute to the study of communication writ large?

In concert with the conference theme of “One World, One Network?,” this pre-conference focuses on connecting ICA scholars with various methodological expertise (e.g., ethnography, network analysis, heterogeneous engineering, agent experimentation), interest group affiliations, global locations, and assumptive communication worldviews to explore fertile ground and collaborations in HMC and to move forward a robust, inclusive, and broadly informed HMC project. Toward robust and illuminating conversations, the event integrates (a) keynote speakers who will stir discussion of HMC's most pressing issues, (b) short-format “late-breaking abstracts” (LBAs) from member and guest scholars, and (c) curated panels reflecting those areas of diverse perspective and standpoints referenced above.

Notably, the event’s focus on characterizing the core character of HMC as a subdiscipline will coincide with a special issue of the journal Human-Machine Communication (http://hmcjournal.com). More information will be provided in June 2022. Short papers accepted to this pre-conference may be invited by the editors to submit full papers to the special issue.
Cost of Registration & Attendance:

Faculty US $75
Student US $40

Submission and method:

Submissions should be emailed to autumn.edwards@wmich.edu with the subject line: HMC Pre-Conference Submission.

Paper requirements:

Papers should be 1000-1500 words excluding references. The paper should detail what the scholar plans to present and how this relates to the overall focus of the pre-conference given above. Such papers and the contributions they forecast will be considered for inclusion in the curated, thematic panels referenced above. The pre-conference is open to all sorts of scholarship, both empirical and theoretical, quantitative and qualitative. Papers must be written in English and may use any internally consistent formatting and citation style. Submissions will be peer-reviewed, and it is expected that all first authors will review 2-3 other submissions. Review criteria include relevance, originality, rigor, generativity, and implications/utility.

Late-breaking abstract requirements:

LBAs should be 750-1000 words excluding references. The LBA format provides attendees the opportunity to present early-stage results from empirical research and/or exciting new methodological, theoretical, or critical syntheses, synopses, or insights. Presenters will be invited to share their LBAs in either a poster format or a high-density discussion panel (three-minute thesis). LBAs are an excellent opportunity for researchers new to the field to participate in the preconference. Papers must be written in English and may use any internally consistent formatting and citation style. Submissions will be peer-reviewed, and it is expected that all first authors will review 2-3 other submissions. Review criteria include relevance, originality, rigor, generativity, and implications/utility.

Presentation format:

The pre-conference will have a two-tiered format. Some scholars will be invited to deliver a paper presentation as part of a thematic panel curated by organizers, while others will be invited to take part in the LBA session.

Important dates:

Submissions due: February 18, 2022
Reviews due: March 4, 2022
Decision notifications: on or about March 15, 2022
Organizers:

Autumn Edwards, Western Michigan University, USA
Jaime Banks, Texas Tech University, USA
Jihyun Kim, University of Central Florida, USA

Sponsors:

Communication and Social Robotics Labs
Northern Illinois University, Department of Communication
The University of Illinois at Chicago
Western Michigan University, School of Communication

Sponsorship call:

The pre-conference welcomes additional institutional sponsors. If your organization would like to contribute funds and be recognized on promotional materials at the event, please contact autumn.edwards@wmich.edu.