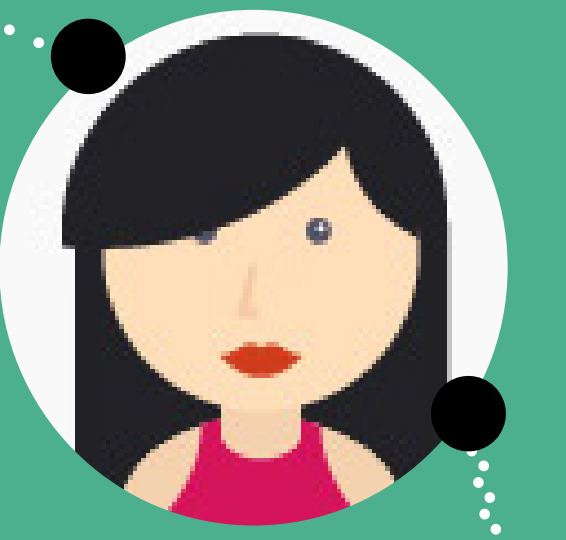


Building Teams Over Distance: A Solution Through Digital Art Mediated Practices



1. MOTIVATION

Team building is critical in organizations for building interpersonal relationships and trust. For distributed teams, the need to have team building interventions is greater while the challenges are harder because of distance. My research focuses on how art-mediated self-expression helps team members build social ties through abstract and computer-aided visualizations. In my work I propose a concept of **DIGITAL ART MEDIATED PRACTICES**. This concept aims at applying mobile and visual technologies in socially engaged art practices to engage co-workers to express and share affective information in public freely and anonymously, hence to facilitate understanding and compassion amongst distributed teams.

2. DESIGN PRINCIPLES

1. Enable implicit self-expressions through diverse interactions and gateways.
2. Design for the catharsis process.
3. Reveal group patterns through socially collective artifacts.
4. Support building empathy through reading and exploring the social artifacts.
5. Embody a mechanism to make information anonymous to protect privacy.

3. PRINCIPLES IN PRACTICE



As an example, my design work Doodled “Us” allows users to draw in colors that stand for their moods, on a shared canvas that is simultaneously projected onto public displays. Collaborative drawings merge into one visualization of the overview mood of a group. Users get connected affectively through the activity and visual communication.

4. FUTURE RESEARCH

My future research will complement both directions of system design and theory building:

1. Iterations on the embedded activity, platform, user interface, incentives, visual result, procedures, etc. based on Doodled “Us”.
2. Experimental and qualitative investigations through a revised prototype.

5. EXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS

My research will provide insights about how affective dimensions, e.g. sharing personal information, builds trust among collaborators, and by building trust, building social ties. The insights will contribute to the following questions. 1. Besides current communication and collaborative technologies, what alternative and unconventional applications can we design and develop to engage co-workers into socially engaged group activities under distributed workspaces. 2. How sharing art-mediated self-expressions creates shared identity, shared context, spontaneous communication, and thus improves interpersonal relationships and trust amongst distributed teams. 3. What new social values could the proposed playful, freeform concept bring to distributed teams.

