Track n. 6 - Digital people living in a digital society: the force and the dark side of online communities

Internet and ICTs are everyday more and more pervasive. Not only they reach day by day an increasing share of the world population, but they also continuously impact on people, organizations, and the society making available new affordances, which may also involve new hindrances. ICTs and Internet technologies increase the easiness of resources sharing, information diffusion, and cooperation among groups of people who have sporadic physical contacts, who lack previous acquaintance, and whose interaction is mainly mediated through social media.

The born online communities of people, thanks to such enabling conditions, have affected individuals, teams, and organization. The nature of this influence is still under dispute. On one side, we observe online communities being used by individuals, teams and organizations to work and cooperate in a hitherto unseen manner, affording for flexibility, increased absorptive capacity, participated knowledge generation and circulation, empowered capability to pursue communal objectives together. On the other side, online communities form detached virtual worlds where people live in a bubble based on alternative facts and reality. Online communities clash and crash existing institution which are subject to shocks: companies are dematerialized with performance improvements and jobs losses and transformation (like in the case of crowdsourcing platforms, or professional networks, or digital marketplaces); industries are disrupted and replaced by digital platforms; institutions and political parties are challenged by new forms of self-organizing.

Throughout the years these initiatives being utilized by people and organizations have produced both great success and spectacular failures. Several communities are live, continuously producing ideas, and engaging members on daily activities. Other instead are silent and fail in achieving their objectives. This track aims at furthering the debate among scholars on the bright and the dark side of online communities by contributing to the generation of theoretical knowledge on how online communities affect people and organizations in a digital society. The track welcomes both theoretical and empirical contributions studying online communities, in whatever context and under whichever perspective.

Track main topics

Paper submitted to the track shall discuss the following topics (the list is not to be intended as exhaustive):
- Affordances and hindrances of social media
- Design and management of online communities
- Evolution of online communities
- The online and offline dimension of communities
- Virtual communities
- Virtual and hybrid organizations
- Social networks and social media
- Cooperation and participation through online communities
- Online communities and business organizations
- Social media platforms

- Sharing economy
- Individual transformation
- Interactions between physical organizations and online communities
- E-Participation
- Smart cities and smart platforms

Track Co-Chairs	

Name – Surname (primary contact)	**Alessio Maria Braccini**
Title	Prof.
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Short Biography	Alessio Maria Braccini is Senior Assistant Professor of Information Systems at the University of Tuscia, Italy. He holds a PhD in Management of Information Systems from the LUISS Guido Carli University. His main research interest is the impact of ICT on teams and organizations. His works appeared in journals (among which GIQ, IJAIS, CAIS, IJECS, JCIT) and conferences (among which ICIS, ECIS, BIS, WOA, ItAIS). He has been track chair in past editions of ItAIS and WOA, and associate editor for ECIS.
Name – Surname	**Øystein Sæbø**
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Name – Surname	**Tommaso Federici**
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Short Biography	Tommaso Federici teaches Human Resource Management at University of Tuscia (Viterbo, Italy) and Information Systems Management at LUISS University (Rome, Italy). He also taught at other Universities, Schools of management, Ph.D. programmes. His recent research interests are: Online Communities for collective action, Influence of ICT on Political Processes,

Digital Natives entering the workplace. His works are published on journals – among them: GIQ, CAIS, VINE, JEIM, JCIT – chapters of book, and proceedings of concerence. He already chaired tracks at itAIS in past editions, and served as reviewers since 2007.

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Submission

Submissions will be evaluated through a standard blind review process. Track chairs will ensure anonymity of the review process.

Authors are highly encouraged to seek guidance from Track Chairs prior submitting the paper. We highly encourage authors to formalize this process by sending an abstract to the Track Chairs to receive feedback and guidance. Formal submission must specify the track that they are intended for. The page limit for contributions submitted in English is equal to 12 pages (maximum). Formatting rules (LNCS Springer format) are available at this link:

http://www.springer.com/it/computer-science/lncs/conference-proceedings-guidelines

Deadline for encouraged abstract submission: May 14, 2017
Deadline for full paper submission: **June 11, 2017**