

Winner of the SIGCHI Finland thesis competition 2020

Receiver: Tarja Matikka, University of Vaasa, School of Technology and Innovation

Title: Teknostressi tietojärjestelmien käytössä ja sen vaikutus muutosvastarintaan - Fenomenologinen tutkimus toimihenkilöiden kokemuksista

The thesis explores technological stress experienced in organizations in connection with the use and implementation of information systems using a qualitative research method. As a result of the research, three general networks of meaning were presented, in which the positive and negative experience of technostress and its effect on the readiness for change and the coping mechanisms used in the stress process are highlighted. The topic is current and important, in our ever-accelerating society of digitalization.

The thesis consists of theoretical, methodical and practical contributions. The research section based on phenomenology is convincing and the analysis of the data is clear and the logic of the conclusions easy to understand. In addition, the research approach and the processing of the material are even exceptionally mature. Equally, the discussion section is well structured and scientifically relevant. Through the thesis, a good mastery of conducting qualitative research was demonstrated.

The thesis answers to the research problem with broad and carefully scoped background literature indicating an in-depth understanding of the research domain. The findings and recommendations of the work are interesting and the work can be recommended for reading by anyone working with the digitization of the work environment. Overall, the thesis is logical by its structure and very well written. In summary, the thesis meets the criteria of an exceptionally meritorious thesis creating both scientific and practical knowledge.

The assessments of the submitted theses and the selection of the winners were done by a panel of experts, including both researchers and practitioners in the HCI field. The competition was organised by SIGCHI Finland, sponsored by Boogie Software and coordinated by Helena Tokkonen. The members of the panel were:

- Markus Ahola, Aalto University
- Laura Havinen, University of Vaasa
- Suvi Isohella, University of Vaasa
- Sari Kujala, Aalto University
- Hannu Kukka, Boogie Software
- Tonja Molin-Juustila, University of Oulu
- Dorina Rajanen, University of Oulu
- Johanna Silvennoinen, University of Jyväskylä
- Kimmo Tarkkanen, Turku University of Applied Sciences

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Honourable mention in the SIGCHI Finland thesis competition 2020

Receiver: Masafumi Kawachi, Aalto University, MA Programme of Collaborative and Industrial Design

Title: Enabling citizens' speculation: The method of Co-Speculation for collectively imagining possible futures of 'ikigai' in an aging society

The thesis explores speculative design and citizen participation within the context of an ageing society and addressing the experience of life worth living. The topic is current and important. Participatory design discussed in the work is still an important topic in HCI as well and combining it with speculative design is a good idea. The choice of context is certainly valid given the growing mega-trends of population ageing and related socio-economical issues.

The thesis consists of theoretical, methodical and practical contributions. The thesis answers to the research problem with vast background literature indicating an in-depth understanding of the research domain, as well as with thorough data analysis. The empirical part of the thesis is detailed and described well in terms of procedures and justifications for these. The strength of the study lies especially in the theoretical walkthrough and on the detailed description of the whole research and design project.

Overall, the thesis is logical by its structure, easy to read and understand. In summary, the thesis meets the criteria of an exceptionally meritorious thesis creating both scientific and practical knowledge.

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