

## Introduction to Global Virtual Teams

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The Global Virtual Teams mini-track made its first appearance at HICSS 42. It continues to attract high quality and diverse submissions, which reflects the continued importance global virtual teams play in both academia and practice.

Increasingly, business processes and projects are executed by geographically and temporally dispersed virtual teams whose members physically reside in different countries. Often times the work involved is strategic, complex and has a high degree of ambiguity associated with it. Team members frequently do not have the same first language, come from different national and corporate cultures, work in different time zones and may be employed in different organizations. These dissimilarities, which are often compounded by individual differences such as underlying motivational systems and personality, create both unique opportunities and challenges for management and leadership that do not exist in collocated teams.

Six papers have been accepted for this year's Global Virtual Teams mini-track. The first paper explores the role of virtual team efficacy in participative goal setting in self-directed global virtual

teams. The second paper studies the relative importance of project set-up and communication in the transition phase of global virtual team-based projects. It uses the soft systems methodology to construct a conceptual model that adds insight into the importance of two-way interaction for unstructured knowledge transfer. The third paper studies trust within unique case of a 77 member global virtual team who are organizing a scientific conference. The next paper focuses on the role of organizational context in global virtual team's leadership success. The fifth paper studies how virtuality moderates trust in leaders and subsequently how that trust effects team performance. The sixth and final paper studies cultural diversity and intra-group conflict within short duration global virtual teams.

We have a great set of papers and are excited once again to be hosting the Global Virtual Teams mini-track. We hope the papers stimulate thought and additional research into this increasingly important area of information systems.