
CHI 2017 Stories Overview

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CHI'17 Extended Abstracts, May 06-11, 2017, Denver, CO, USA
ACM 978-1-4503-4656-6/17/05.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/3027063.3051134>

Abstract

CHI Stories is a new venue introduced at CHI 2017. A diverse set of storytellers describe personal experiences that shaped who they are and how they came to the field of Human-Computer Interaction.

Author Keywords

Stories; Storytelling; First Person Narrative.

ACM Classification Keywords

H.5.0. Information interfaces and presentation (e.g., HCI): General.

Introduction

Behind every author, presenter, and committee member in our field is a life full of stories, including many stories that are relevant to CHI. When we write a professional paper, we provide background on the theories and prior studies that led us to our research questions. We conclude by speculating on what's next. But we have few venues for going beyond these professional horizons. In our professional lives, we aim at the behavioral level. In CHI Stories, we hope to find something more at the reflective, and perhaps the visceral, levels.

CHI Stories are what come after "Really? I'd like to hear more about that." The CHI Stories team is proud to bring together this inaugural group of storytellers:

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Breaking the Silence**Nova Ahmed**

North South University, Dhaka, BGD

In this story, I want to share how silence was broken when I was working on a project related to sexual harassment. Along with that, I discovered my own journey and have come here to break my personal silence!

Favorite Researcher**Hrvoje Benko**

Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA USA

This is a story about one specific moment when I grew up. Not in the sense of growing up from a kid to an adult, but more about growing up in how you think about your career, who your role models are, and how at some point you become a role model for others.

Birthing SIGCHI: A Personal History**Susan Dray**

Dray and Associates, Minneapolis, MN USA

The organizers had expected about 200 people to come, and instead, 900 showed up. How amazing! Remember, this is before our profession had really coalesced, before we were a profession at all. People were sitting in the aisles and the breaks were overflowing. I still remember the grey maternity jumper I was wearing because I was 7 months pregnant, and the silk tie that we women had to wear in those days. And I remember so well the excitement and the sense of mission we all had, embodied in the phrase repeated over and over, "We can't let the spirit of Gaithersburg die! We **can't** let the spirit of Gaithersburg die!" The place was practically

buzzing. So, the second night, a group of us met to figure out how to do that. I was exhausted that night, and I almost didn't go, but I am so glad I did to be part of this historic meeting. Indeed, my daughter, Anna Rachel, was kicking hard, as if to say "Mom, you HAVE to go!" And so I did. As I looked around the room, I was proud of the diversity of our burgeoning profession. There were women as well as men, academics and professionals, older people and younger people. For 1982, that was very diverse. I remember the room, with many people who would become good friends, each of whom represented a different organization: Marilyn Tremaine from SIGSOC, Sara Bly from SIGGRAPH, Lorraine Borman from ACM, Tom Martin from ASIS, me from the Human Factors Society, and more. Women were not only in the room, our voices were very important in the conversation and shaped the very character of SIGCHI. Now, look around you and see how the diversity has grown. Every time I do this, I am reminded of how diversity and inclusion have always been core values for our organization.

Anna Rachel was born two months later and she likes to say she's as old as SIGCHI. That always makes me smile.

Midwifery, Babies, HCI: "Doktormutter"hood and Sustainable Academic Life
Geraldine Fitzpatrick

Technische Universität Wien, Vienna, AUT

What can and can't we control? As a midwife, I knew how to calculate when to get pregnant to fit in with my computer science studies. What I also should have known better was how little control we have. The

consequences play out in my "go with the flow" career, where career moves mark moving on to a different sort of life and family life than imagined, and where I have the joy of "doktormutter"hood, and can (over)work on HCI research agendas I care about. I can also respond to the challenges of a changing academic life, take back some control, and work to make this more sustainable, with the podcast series as a contribution.

From an Aspiring Cartoonist to an HCI Researcher

Rubaiat Habib

Autodesk, Toronto, ON CAN

A picture is worth a thousand words.

Yet, static pictures are not always enough to express ourselves. As a cartoonist and visual thinker, I always felt frustrated by the fact that my drawings and characters do not portray the living phenomena in the way I imagine them. How can I literally bring life to my drawings? Talk to them? Interact with them? This story is all about the quest of giving life to drawings, and how HCI and Computer Science enabled me to design, develop, & deploy technologies for dynamic drawings, and, in the process, develop a new, powerful medium of expression for artists, designers, and educators.

A dynamic picture is worth a million words

Full Circle

Björn Hartmann

University of California, Berkeley, USA

I have a story about how the craft of DJing, and the tangible experience of working with vinyl and turntables, made me first conscious about user

interface design. That then drove me to apply to graduate school where I learned to build electronic musical instruments, which in turn led to research in technologies to prototype and build tangible user interfaces more generally. This started my graduate student career and my faculty career and now led me to direct the Jacobs Institute for Design Innovation at Berkeley, a teaching institute that serves >1000 students a semester and which operates at the intersection of design, technology, and the maker spirit. Fifteen years later, I now also collaborate with composers at Berkeley, so the story has come full circle in a way.

**One Woman's Journey in High Tech:
Passion and Partnership**

Karen Holtzblatt

*InContext Enterprises, Silver Spring, MD USA
University of Maryland, College Park, MD USA*

Understanding human behavior and experience has always been my passion since I started coaching people at 8 years old. By 12, I was evangelizing to large audiences in oratory competitions. At 15, influenced by the woman's movement and my grandmother, I was committed to working a significant career. As an undergraduate, I started doing qualitative work— unheard of for a psychologist. And the roots of Contextual Inquiry and my commitment to women's issues are in my doctoral research. In this talk, I tell the story of my journey from applied psychologist to user experience professional, from the beginnings of Contextual Design to owner of a consultancy—and the partnerships that helped me face the bumps along the way.

Being the Best You Can Be

Elizabeth Rosenzweig

Bentley University, Waltham, MA USA

Dreams provide us with a goal and a direction to take our lives, but sometimes we misinterpret the signs along our path. Unexpected situations present themselves to us and suddenly we are pointed in a direction that seems to take us away from our dreams, or seems so at the time. It turns out, after time we might see the opposite was true. An unexpected turn could actually bring us closer to reaching our true potential.

When a Phone Call Caused Code Blue

Preethi Srinivas

The Regenstrief Institute, Indianapolis, IN USA

Hospital intensive care units (ICUs) are intensely complicated environments characterized by a high degree of communication and collaboration between patient-care team members. Team members often realign and re-orient their knowledge about the patient, tasks, and goals to ensure high-quality care. Consequently, the need for timely communication of patient information often results in team members interrupting and being interrupted more frequently in the ICU. Information and communication technologies such as pagers and smartphones create new opportunities for communication and dynamic updates for patient care; however, they also introduce potential work interruptions through technology-mediated notifications such as alarms, alerts, and pop-up messages. I describe my story as an ICU patient and how my care plan and safety were affected owing to a phone call.

**How Tinder Girls in Taiwan Taught Me
Semi-Structured Interview Skills****Doug Zytke***New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ USA*

Want to brush up on your qualitative research skills? Travel alone to a foreign country, get your heart broken, and then start making friends through a dating app. In this story, I describe my experiences meeting strangers in Taiwan from Tinder and how those experiences informed the semi-structured interview techniques I use in my research of online dating systems. Dating can be a sensitive subject, and online daters often have personal stories that they may be hesitant to tell a stranger because of the emotions, self-doubt, and insecurities that can be incurred by the retelling of these stories. Yet it is these very stories that often prove the most vital to understanding the user experience of social computing platforms. My story hones on a fundamental lesson that I learned in Taiwan for how to bring these stories to light in semi-structured interview contexts.