
2nd Career Development Forum for Recent PhDs

Luigina Ciolfi

Sheffield Hallam University
Sheffield, S1 2NU, UK L.Ciolfi@shu.ac.uk

Michael Muller

IBM Research
Cambridge, MA 02142, USA
michael_muller@us.ibm.com

Abstract

The goal of the Career Development Forum is to provide a supportive environment for recent PhDs (under 5 years) to discuss issues related to career development, including defining a research trajectory, identifying funding sources, getting involved in professional service within SIGCHI and elsewhere, communicating their work and strengthening their

public profile, and balancing work, family and social life. A selected group of recent PhDs will interact with senior researchers from academia and/or industry. Each recent PHD will be provided with a 20+ minute slot to discuss his/her career and career development with the other attendees. There will also be a series of panels in which senior HCI researchers discuss research development, getting involved in professional service, and work/life balance.

Author Keywords

Career development, professional service.

ACM Classification Keywords

H.5.m. Information interfaces and presentation (e.g., HCI): Miscellaneous

Background

Recent PhDs often seek guidance on how to develop their professional careers in human-computer interaction. The goal of this forum is to provide a supportive environment for recent PhDs to discuss career development with established HCI researchers from industry and academia. The forum will be modeled after the successful first edition of the event held at CHI 2016 in San Jose, and will also take inspiration from the supportive and encouraging environment of highly successful doctoral consortia at CHI and other ACM conferences. This forum is one

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component of new SIGCHI Executive Committee activities focused on professional development.

The goal of the Career Development Forum is to help recent PhDs manage aspects of their new careers in HCI, including:

- Building a cohort group of fellow HCI researchers.
- Selecting and developing a research trajectory.
- Identifying potential funding sources and preparing proposals.
- Getting involved in professional service, within SIGCHI and elsewhere.
- Communicating their work and strengthening their public profile.
- Balancing work, family and social life.

Organizers

The workshop will be organized by Luigina Ciolfi (Sheffield Hallam University) and Michael Muller (IBM Research). Both organizers have extensive research careers and prior experience organizing and serving as a mentor in doctoral consortia for SIGCHI conferences and elsewhere.

Luigina Ciolfi has served as co-chair of the first Career Development Workshop at CHI 2016, mentor on the DC panel at both ACM CSCW 2012 and ACM CSCW 2015. She has served on many other committee roles for ACM conferences, including papers co-chair for CSCW 2015, Demos co-chair for CSCW 2010 & 2012, Workshops co-chair GROUP 2012, working papers co-chair GROUP 2016. She is a long-standing Associate Chair for CHI and CSCW. In Europe, she is the current DC co-chair for COOP 2016, general chair for ECSCW 2017 and an

expert mentor for the EUSSET International Summer School.

Michael Muller has served as mentor in the CHI 2016 Early Career workshop, and in Doctoral Consortiums at CHI and DIS. He has co-chaired conference programs, most recently for GROUP 2016, as well as early Participatory Design Conferences; he has also co-chaired program subcommittees for CHI and DIS. Michael has co-organized and co-facilitated workshops at many conferences, most recently at ECSCW 2015. Michael also conducted the Student Review Mentoring program for CSCW 2017. Michael participates as mentor in IBM's summer internship program, leading to numerous papers with students as first authors, at CHI, CSCW, ICWSM, and DIS.

Website

<https://chi2017.acm.org/careerdev.html>

Pre-Event Plans

Initial recruiting of recent PhDs will be done via emails to key distribution lists used by members of the CHI community, via social media, and via our website. As part of the advertising, we will ask recipients to pass the message along to recent PHDS on their faculty or in their organization.

In addition, four senior mentors (in addition to the organizers) will be identified and personally invited to participate. Our goal is to have a group of six mentors who have achieved success in diverse research careers and in SIGCHI professional service.

Once this year's cohort has been identified, further community-building will be done through a Facebook

group and using other social media tools to engage the participants in discussion.

Event Structure

The structure of this second one-day Forum will be similar to that of 2016, maintaining a strong focus on career development topics:

- Each participant will have a 20-30 minute slot. They will use about 10 minutes of this time to present their research ideas, current professional activities, and key career goals. The remainder of the slot will be used for feedback from the rest of the group.
- There will be a 45 minute panel in which senior researchers discuss how they established their research agendas and take questions from the audience.
- There will be a 30 minute panel in which senior researchers discuss how they became involved in

SIGCHI and other professional activities and take questions from the audience.

- There will be a 30 minute panel on issues related to work/life balance and take questions from the audience.
- There will be small group “clinics” on particular topics which will be requested by the participants ahead of the Forum.

Post-Event Plans

Each participant will be asked to generate a personal career development plan by one week from the end of the Forum. We will also survey the participants and senior mentors about individual activities and the overall success of the event. Our longer-term goal is to ensure that post-PHD career development activities are kept as a regular part of the CHI conference.