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# HCI Across Borders and Intersections

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## ABSTRACT

The HCI Across Borders (HCIXB) community has been growing in recent years, thanks in particular to the Development Consortium at CHI 2016 and the HCIXB Symposia at CHI 2017 and 2018. This year, we propose an HCIXB symposium that continues to build scholarship potential of early career HCIXB researchers, strengthening ties between more and less experienced members of the community. We especially invite scholarship with a focus on intersections, examining and/or addressing multiple forms of marginalization (*e.g.*, race, gender, class, among others).

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Figure 1: HCIxB '16



Figure 2: HCIxB '17



Figure 3: HCIxB '18

## CCS CONCEPTS

- Human-centered computing → Empirical studies in HCI;

## KEYWORDS

borders; intersections; early career researchers

## INTRODUCTION

The field of HCI is already highly interdisciplinary, welcoming a wide range of research topics, methodologies, geographies, and researcher backgrounds. However, there remain a number of roadblocks to be addressed based on intersectional factors, professional cultures, among other deep-seated causes. Such roadblocks may be dismantled through continuous dialog, and the HCIxB symposia have created a safe space for the identification and analysis of these roadblocks in prior years. At CHI 2019, our aim is to engage the theme of *intersections* to highlight the types of borders, or differences, that HCI researchers encounter in their work. We build on the discussions that took place during a panel organized by the ACM Future of Computing Academy at CHI 2018 [12], where participants discussed the margins of the SIGCHI community, and ways of better supporting them.

HCI Across Borders began in 2016 [8], at the CHI Development Consortium in San Jose. We were fortunate then to gather more than 70 participants from across the world, due to generous funding from SIGCHI and Facebook. The following year in Denver, once again with support from SIGCHI and Facebook, we brought together 90 participants [9]. In Montreal in 2018, we focused our event on early career researchers; 12 students presented their work and received feedback from the audience, and a free-for-all poster session allowed further mixing. We had fewer participants (approx. 60), but without any funding [10]. This meant that we had less distributed representation, but demonstrated that with even narrow focus and zero support, there was enthusiastic presence.

After HCIxB '18, we felt the need to go deeper into themes and focus areas, instead of staying high-level and less structured as in prior years. We decided to adopt the feminist theory of intersectionality as a framework for this year [3]. Our reasons for this selection are three-fold. First, it is clear from emerging HCI research (*e.g.*, [5, 6, 11, 13]) that it is currently an active, but less understood area of study. Second, most of the research that has thus far been accepted to HCIxB symposia would fit well into (and potentially benefit from and extend) this framework. Additionally, the larger HCI community is intersectionally diverse, and this lens might afford an effective point of connection with the larger community.

In this proposal, we begin by specifying the overarching objectives of HCIxB, before listing the organizers, and detailing the website and our plans for the symposium. We conclude with our call for

participation, where we list some important texts that participants might engage with to learn about intersectionality as a framework for HCI research, design, and practice.

### OBJECTIVES OF HCIXB

The overarching goals of our symposia, and aligned initiatives, have been to tie frequently disconnected, globally dispersed HCIXB efforts (that might go by a different name), to understand them, and to take actions that advance HCI research globally by fostering collaborations and mutual exchange of knowledge. We focus on three key courses of action. First, we intend to build a larger, more inclusive HCIXB community of researchers from the Global North and South, and across intersections within SIGCHI. This will entail taking stock of efforts we have made and creating holistic agendas for the future. Second, we will recognize and foster research efforts situated in historically underrepresented contexts, inviting members to submit works in progress and iterate towards stronger scholarship. Third, we will discuss the challenges of educating HCIXB research efforts, to strengthen them in terms of team-building, methodologies, ethics, among other important considerations.

### ORGANIZERS

We sought participation by seeking volunteers from our Facebook group (of 300+ members), asking them to commit to particular aspects of the organization. There were those who committed to the crafting of this proposal, authors and mentioned below. There are several others, however, who will be working to ensure the success of HCIXB '19.

**Neha Kumar** is an Assistant Professor at Georgia Tech, conducting research at the intersection of human-centered computing and global development.

**Christian Sturm** is a Professor at the Hamm-Lippstadt University of Applied Sciences in Germany. His research interests include cross-cultural aspects of HCI, UX, and entrepreneurship.

**Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto, conducting HCI and ICTD research inspired by theories such as postcolonial computing and infrastructural politics.

**Naveena Karusala** is a Ph.D. student at the University of Washington, and does research in HCI and global development, in domains of health, gender, and human-centered AI tools.

**Marisol Wong-Villacres** is a Ph.D. student at Georgia Tech. Her research interests lie at the intersection of culture, the learning sciences, and social computing for vulnerable communities.

**Leonel Morales** is a Professor at Francisco Marroquin University, Guatemala. His research interests include abstract models of user interfaces, programming languages for children, and social platforms.

**Rita Orji** is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Dalhousie University, Canada and works on the appropriate design of persuasive technologies and behaviour change systems.

**Michaelanne Dye** is a Ph.D. candidate at Georgia Tech in ICTD and Social Computing. She studies how people access and participate with internet technologies in resource-constrained settings.

**Nova Ahmed** is an Associate Professor at North South University, Bangladesh. She received her Ph.D. from Georgia Tech.

**Laura S. Gaytan-Lugo** is a Professor at the Universidad de Colima in Mexico. She studies serious games, user experience design, children-computer interaction and evaluation methods.

**Aditya Vashistha** is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Washington, where his research spans HCI, Computing for Development, and Accessibility Technology.

**David Nemer** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky. His research and teaching interests cover the intersection of ICTD, science and technology studies (STS), and HCI.

**Kurtis Heimerl** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Washington, working in ICTD, specifically universal Internet access.

**Susan Dray** is an ACM Fellow and SIGCHI VIP-at-large, in addition to being the recipient of multiple lifetime achievement awards. She has been a champion of HCIxB for several years.

## WEB PRESENCE

Updates regarding our symposium will be available on <https://hcixb.org>. The call for participation, list and roles of organizers, submissions to the symposium, and instructions for attendees will be included here. This is in addition to information about prior symposia and workshops, and other HCIxB initiatives. Also, some members of the HCIxB community now contribute to a Medium publication titled Human-Centered Computing Across Borders: <https://medium.com/hccxb>, allowing authors to post from their accounts to a digital forum for shared research interests.

## PRE-SYMPOSIUM PLANS

Our pre-symposium plans began at the culmination of last year's symposium, where we discussed the pros and cons of different formats of the three HCIxB events we have organized thus far. In addition, we found that intersectionality was a theme that needed further unpacking, and had relevance for our community. This led to initial thought processes regarding this year's event's focus on HCI Across Borders *and Intersections*. More recently, as we began planning for this year's symposium, we reached out to all HCIxB members on our Facebook group, and through email, to determine how best to proceed so that the event could best serve their interests. Collecting feedback on a Medium post regarding planning, and seeking volunteers for organization, created a space for members to voice their thoughts. The symposium we propose takes these ideas into consideration in its goals. We will continue to solicit input from the community as we move forward with our planning.

We also plan to solicit participation from various sub-parts of the larger HCI community working across different borders, not only geographic ones. In December and January, We will reach out through social media, mailing lists, and personal connections to ensure that we cast a wide net. Once we have submissions from our target audience, post-deadline, we will request reviews from a pool of

reviewers we now have thanks to our volunteering form. This will allow us to identify submissions for oral presentation (low acceptance rate), as well as those for posters (high acceptance rate). After these decisions are made, we will create a schedule and invite all our participants to create a blog post for the HCCxB publication based on their submissions. In addition, we will try to maximize participation by soliciting funding from Facebook, Google, Mozilla, among others.

Closer to the event, we will again seek input on what participants would like to see discussed at the symposium. In particular, we will seek out ways for participants to create a “marketplace” of sorts. That is, we will find the labor, skills, and expertise participants are willing to offer, and see if we can find others who are in need of these, and vice versa. Our goal will be to set up partnerships *before* the symposium, so that these partners can structure their in-person time to their best advantage. Our members have also expressed a strong commitment in past years towards improving research abilities, connecting with universities around the world, applying research and design methods in inclusive ways, among other topics. Finally, the key outcome that participants have aspired towards, through the years, is being connected to others in ways that allow them to pursue future collaborations. We, as organizers, will ensure that there are several opportunities for them to engage towards this goal through the week of CHI, starting at the symposium.

### SYMPOSIUM FORMAT

The symposium will take place on one day, kick off with a panel, include a poster session for all participants, oral presentations and feedback sessions for select early career researchers, and end with a closing session. In opening remarks, organizers will present the history, objectives, and agenda for this symposium. The panel will then have 3-4 senior researchers to discuss pressing issues facing HCIxB, including research ethics, industry-academia relationships, curricular development, and others. The poster session will give attendees a chance to mingle and learn about ongoing research projects and related domains. After the poster session, we will have participants self-organize into smaller groups and engage themselves in brainstorming around a set of challenges relevant to their interests. We will have two presentation sessions (8-10 talks) after the lunch break, where authors will get feedback from a selected jury (and the room overall) on their work in progress. The symposium will end with a closing session that will summarize the day’s activities and discuss future actions.

The final agenda will be posted on our website once participation decisions have been made. It will closely follow the given format, although panelists and jury are to be determined and will be selected based on the content of the submissions accepted and who is able to attend HCIxB 2019.

### POST-SYMPOSIUM PLANS

As in prior years, after the symposium, we will continue promoting community-building efforts through our active Facebook Group and by inviting and encouraging participants to share relevant

0900-0915: Opening Remarks  
 0915-1000: Panel  
 1000-1030: Tea/Coffee Break  
 1030-1130: Poster Session  
 1130-1230: Breakout Session  
 1230-1400: Lunch Break  
 1400-1500: Presentations + Feedback  
 1500-1530: Tea/Coffee Break  
 1530-1700: Presentations + Feedback  
 1700-1730: Closing Session

#### Sidebar 1: Schedule for the Day

work on our blog, <https://medium.com/hccxb>. In the past, we have produced collaborative publications summarizing our event [7]. We will also discuss possibilities of hosting a special issue on HClxB where full papers from current and past symposia participants will be invited.

### CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

The HCI Across Borders (HClxB) symposium at CHI (initially held as the Development Consortium at CHI 2016, then as a symposium 2017-2019) has evolved into a critical collaborative effort to bring together researchers working in under-represented contexts globally. Our mission has been to foster community across geographies, backgrounds, methodologies, and other borders. To achieve this, we have explored building bridges with the larger HCI community, and creating concrete mentorship opportunities for supporting HClxB researchers in publishing at impactful HCI venues.

For 2019, our theme is “across intersections”. We invite submissions that consider intersectionality in their work, or the recognition that multiple forms of marginalization (e.g., race, gender, class, religion, among others) must be understood in conjunction, with reflections on how this understanding might inform new opportunities in HCI research, design, and practice. We invite researchers and practitioners across the globe, particularly those seeking to work across borders, to participate in HClxB 2019. As defined by our participants across the years, “borders” may entail geographical boundaries but also boundaries across diverse research interests, disciplines, methodologies, and more.

We invite participants engaged in early-stage and mid-stage projects, so that presenters can seek actionable feedback from community members. Prospective participants are requested to submit a position paper that is 800-1,000 words long (single column, 1.5 line spacing, Times New Roman, size 12 font, PDF format) on <http://hcixb19.hotcrp.com>. This should clearly outline their views on the symposium theme and reason for interest. Submissions might identify how different facets of identity and forms of marginalization appear in their work, and discuss how looking at these intersections informs new, integrated questions. We have added a list of relevant readings on feminist and intersectional theories to our website (<http://www.hcixb.org/chi2019/>). We hope these will serve as a good starting point for those less familiar with these concepts (e.g., [1, 2]), and work that operationalizes them (e.g., [4]) and grounds them in policy, research, practice, and design (e.g., [11, 13]). Example submissions might include, but are not limited to, the topics below:

- Deploying a national women’s safety intervention in Nepal
- Technology usage by Mexican migrants in the United States
- Creating e-mentorship opportunities that bridge the rural-urban divide in the United States
- Digitizing informal savings in Pakistan
- Medical chatbots to improve healthcare delivery in Kenya

All submissions will be reviewed by our program committee, and acceptance will be conditional on the potential to contribute to the HCIXB community, and foster discussion and growth among participants. Authors of accepted submissions will be invited to bring poster versions of their submissions at CHI. We will invite seasoned HCI researchers in relevant areas to provide rich feedback to symposium participants. A selection of accepted submissions will be invited to make short oral presentations.

For those who require a visa support letter to attend, the deadline is Tuesday, January 15, 2019. We will aim to send notifications for these by January 31, 2019. For all others, the deadline will be Tuesday, February 12. Notifications will be sent by Friday, March 1, confirming the list of oral/poster presenters, and all camera-ready versions will be due on Sunday, March 31. Please note that accepted submissions will not be indexed in the ACM Digital Library but will be listed on the HCIXB website for participants to read before attending CHI. Through March and April, we will publish submissions as blog posts (on <https://medium.com/hccxb>). Please check [www.hcixb.org](http://www.hcixb.org) for relevant information, and email [hcixb2019@gmail.com](mailto:hcixb2019@gmail.com) with questions.

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