

CM40149 – Collaborative Systems

Individual essay:

This coursework was marked anonymously.

PARTICIPANT 19991348

Overall Mark: 41/50 (82%)

This sheet provides you with marks and feedback **for your individual essay**. Assessment of the CM40149 unit is 100% by coursework. It is made up of:

Group Work: Leading a seminar (30% of unit assessment) and **Individual Work:** Participating in seminars (20% of unit assessment) + Individual Essay (50% of unit assessment)

You were asked to produce an individual essay critically examining the current literature on a current “hot” topic in the field, explaining the issues it addresses, its implications for collaborative systems and its connections to the topics discussed in CM40149.

Content: The coursework specification stated the topic for your individual essay *must* be within the scope of the unit. Your essay *must* have **made clear use** of some of the **class literature** and included **relevant additional reading**. Your essay *must* have built on the topics covered during the seminars earlier in the semester. Your essay *should* have accomplished this discussing issues associated with a topic and their implications for collaborative systems. You *should* have drawn upon your experiences in the practical sessions as evidence for claims that you made in your essay.

Presentation and Structure: In its introduction, your essay *must* have clearly stated how the body of your essay was organised, in order to make clear the argument you wished to develop. It *must* have followed the ACM SIG proceedings format, and *not* have exceeded four pages in length.

Grounding in unit-relevant literature (CSCW/groupware) and literature that is specific to your special topic (16/20 marks)

Your chosen essay topic of role emergence and its impact on group decision making outcomes is introduced with a careful treatment of literature and a position on roles as individual characteristics, group interactions, and development of norms, following Barlow. Your account is thoughtful, including some evidence of critical reflection on relevant literature and a good attempt to make connections between the works of different authors. You provide an excellent introduction to the paper with good grounding in papers that were discussed in-class, and those that you have found from searching relevant literature.

Coherence of connection between your individual essay and the practical exercises, including presentation of evidence for claims made (16/20 marks)

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Your essay makes many clear and insightful connections with the practical lab exercises, which was one of the main objectives of this task. Your analysis is excellent, with a clear account of the process accompanied by your own treatment of communication by number of messages sent in Slack and your own coding of messages using Barlow's contribution types. You provide a clear account of the limitations associated with your analysis, however you are able to provide good evidence to support the claims that you have made. E.g. that Opinionaters and Organizers have more influence on the group outcomes when compared to that of Sharers and Listeners. It is excellent that you also considered the dynamic nature of roles as group membership and structure changes over time and explored these changes. It would have been interesting to see a table containing the role breakdown across the 3 phases, showing how roles evolved and changed, and used in support of claims such as – "the former Organizer of Group 1 shifted to an Opinionater and did not guide the discussion at all". It raises interesting questions about how factors such as changes in group structure and membership lead to shifts in roles.

Your discussion of future work, including considering other role categorisations, beyond that of Barlow is very good.

Well done.

Presentation and Structure (9/10 marks)

ACM format is excellent. References font size should be increased (although this is very minor issue)

Very good abstract (topic, approach + findings).

Overall clarity of writing style is excellent and this essay exhibits an excellent structure, good coherence of ideas carried forward effectively through to the conclusion.