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Introduction to Collaborative Modeling Minitrack

Article · January 2012
DOI: 10.1109/HICSS.2012.344

3 authors:

- **Stijn Hoppenbrouwers**
  Hogeschool Arnhem and Nijmegen
  144 PUBLICATIONS  1,172 CITATIONS
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- **Peter Rittgen**
  Högskolan i Borås
  68 PUBLICATIONS  560 CITATIONS
  [SEE PROFILE]

- **Etiënne A. J. A. Rouwette**
  Radboud University
  85 PUBLICATIONS  1,368 CITATIONS
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Modeling is a basic skill and practice in the systems disciplines, and requires complex analytical and conceptualization skills. Traditionally, models are mostly created by individuals.

However, in an increasing number of situations modeling is becoming a group activity, involving mixed groups of participants such as engineers, analysts, architects, and various types of stakeholder; also, in many cases, facilitators.

Such collaborative modeling (closely related to participative and interactive modeling) requires and allows groups to create and/or validate rational conceptual structures of considerable complexity whilst also achieving or reifying a very sophisticated level of shared understanding, consensus, and commitment.

Though its applications as such are certainly worthy of study, we are also seeking theoretical insights in the mechanisms of collaborative modeling, if possible looking beyond the editing of models and extending investigations to the wider cognitive, social, and communicational aspects of the creation of models, e.g. conversation, negotiation, argumentation, conceptualization, facilitation, and learning.

The 2012 HICSS minitrack on collaborative modeling includes five high quality papers: