

Theories in CSCW: work and work practices

Readings:

Mandatory:

- Schmidt, K.: *The concept of work in CSCW*, 2011
- Gasser, L.: *The integration of computing and routine work*, 1986

Additional readings:

- Star, S.L. & Strauss, A.: *Layers of Silence, Arenas of Voice: The Ecology of Visible and Invisible Work*, 1999
- Strauss, A.: *Work and the Division of Labor*, 1988
- Strauss, A.: *The Articulation of Project Work: An Organisational Process*, 1999
- Button, G. & Harper, H.: *The Relevance of "Work Practice" for Design*, 1995
- Suchman, L.: *Making Work Visible Making Work Visible*, 1995
- Clement, A. & Wagner, I.: *Fragmented Exchange: Disarticulation and the Need for regionalised Communication Spaces*, 1995

questions:

1. What is work – and what is not work, according to Schmidt?
2. What are ludic pursuits?
3. How does Schmidt characterize work? (time, purpose etc.)
4. How does Schmidt define cooperative work (and coordinative practices)?
5. What is articulation work?
6. Is Gasser's definition of articulation work different from the definition given by Schmidt & Bannon?
7. How does Gasser describe "adaptation" as organized work?
8. Why does work have such a central role in CSCW? How is Schmidt's argumentation? Do you agree?

Follow-up questions:

9. What does Schmidt mean by "primary cases of work" and how are they different from "secondary cases of work"?
10. Describe Strauss' theory of work (arc of work, production lattice, trajectory) as presented by Gasser.
11. Gasser refers to the work of "reorganization" and "maintenance" as articulation work of the production lattice. Can you think of others?
12. What are work-arounds (fitting, augmenting, working around) and what are their characteristics?

Extra questions:

- What does Schmidt mean by "polymorphous concept"?
- Describe Strauss' view on project work and articulation work.
- What do Star & Strauss mean by "layers of silence"?
- How does their view fit with Suchman's notion of invisible work?

- Clement & Wagner discuss disarticulation and the need for private spaces – how does this fit with the above papers about silence?
- Explain the ecological view proposed by Star & Strauss