



Workshop Announcement

Sequences, Traces, & Time: Building a research community

Michigan State University | East Lansing, MI USA
May 19 - 20, 2017

Workshop Theme

Widespread digitization is creating new sources of data that record sequences of actions and events over time and space. These action sequences can be used to trace coherent streams of activity in social, economic and business processes as they unfold over time. These sources of data, along with new computational methods, create an opportunity to visualize, analyze and compare patterns of actions in ways that were never before possible.

This workshop is intended to explore new research opportunities and challenges in the analysis and interpretation of sequence and trace data. We are particularly interested in interdisciplinary dialog and cross-fertilization, as the basic concepts and methods are not unique to any single discipline.

Aims

The goal is to bring together scholars from diverse perspectives (e.g., business, history, geography, psychology, biology, computer science, and more) in order to identify themes, methods, concepts and applications. We seek to address questions that may be of common interest: What are the most promising applications? What kinds of tools and infrastructure are available? What kinds are needed? We seek to identify opportunities to promote further interest and engagement in this area, such as conferences and special issues.

Program

Our keynote speaker, Marshall Scott Poole is the David L. Swanson Professor of Communication, Senior Research Scientist at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, and Director of I-CHASS: The Institute for Computing in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at the University of Illinois. Scott has applied computational and qualitative approaches to sequence analysis in research on group, organizational, and inter-organizational processes. The title of his talk will be: **Thinking Sequentially: The Intersection of Theory and Method in the Analysis of Social Processes**. Other confirmed speakers will be announced as the date approaches.

The program will be designed to maximize the circulation of people and ideas, with brief presentations and extensive breakout/discussion. Participants will be asked to prepare a small poster (11"x17") to share with the group.



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Who Should Attend?

We are interested in building a research community that fosters theoretical and methodological innovation related to the analysis and interpretation of social phenomena that are distributed in time and space. We are deliberately staking out a large tent, because we believe that scholars from a wide variety of disciplines may find common interests here.

Our target audience includes empirical researchers who have experience in the analysis of sequence or trace data, as well as researchers who are interested in learning more about it. All participants will be expected to have a poster to explain current work or interests. Doctoral students are welcome.

Location & Mechanics

The workshop will take place at the The James B. Henry Center for Executive Development at Michigan State University (3535 Forest Rd., Lansing, MI, 48910, USA). It will start on Friday, May 19th and finish on Saturday, May 20th. The exact timing will be announced by the end of February 2017 (please visit <http://cbsa.msu.edu> for details and updates).

Meals will be provided, but attendees will be responsible for their own travel and accommodations. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Candlewood Suites hotel (connected to the Henry Center):

<http://henrycenter.broad.msu.edu/attend-an-event/candlewood-suites/>

Participation will be limited by the size of the facility (approximately 60 participants), so early sign-up is encouraged.

To register, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/CBSA-EventReg>

Registration Deadline: Friday, May 5, 2017

For more information, contact Brian Pentland (pentlan2@msu.edu).