



CS 7460 Collaborative Computing: Distance Matters

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Distance Matters

- Examine the success and effectiveness of group collaboration compared to collocated work
- 10 years of field and laboratory investigations
- Four key constructs of group collaboration identified:
 - common ground, coupling of work, collaboration readiness, and collaboration technology readiness
- Remote collaboration successful if:
 - high common ground and loosely coupled work, with readiness both for collaboration and collaboration technology

Distance Matters

- Challenges to distance work: contrast in local physical context, time zones, culture, and language, power structures, social workplace norms
- Olson and Olson argue that even with technological advances there are certain roadblocks toward success of remote work

To what extent the *type* of collaborative work impacts success of collocated/remote work?

Common ground can be a challenge even for collocated work. Does remote collaboration make it any worse?

Why did Olson and Olson find that loose coupling of work was more suited for good remote collaboration?

Does today's remote collaboration technologies allow sharing of context?

Does personality or other intrinsic individual attributes impact the success (or failure) of remote collaboration?

Does time criticality of the work impact the success (or failure) of remote collaboration?

Role of the quality of the collaborative technology, it's user interface and interaction capabilities.