# Panel 2: Workplace of the Future; Gig and Self-Employed Workers

- Augmentation for Tomorrow: Expanding the Future Capacities of Independent Workers
- Building Research Capacity by Technological Interventions in Support of Mixed-Ability Workplaces
- Exploring Tools to Help Workers and Organizations Adapt to Alenabled Robots
- First Person View and Augmented Reality for Airborne Embodied Intelligent Cognitive Assistants
- The Next Mobile Office: Safe and Productive Work in Automated Vehicles
- Understanding the Algorithmic Workplace: A Multi-Method Study for Comprehensive Optimization of Platforms





#### #1928573 Collaborative Research: FW-HTF-RM: Augmentation for Tomorrow: Expanding the Future Capacities of Independent Workers

PI(s): Ingrid Erickson, Syracuse University (imericks@syr.edu) Melissa Mazmanian, University of California, Irvine (mmazmani@uci.edu)

We seek to understand how independent workers, and the ways that they fashion and sustain their work/lives, can help reveal new opportunities for the augmentative potential of AI in the future of work.

Future technology should help individuals manage across spaces. Technologies might augment a worker's capacity to "contextualize" quickly and seamlessly.



Future work will likely be an act of assembling small pieces into larger wholes. The question is how much autonomy workers will have to fashion their own assemblage(s).

8. SHOWER & P.J.s- 30 MIN. 9. FREE TIME - 9:30PM MAX. FREE TIME - 9:30PM MAX. (SCREEN/ CREATIVE) 10. BRUSH & FLOSS - 10 MIN. BRUSH & FLOSS - 10 MIN 11. SKIN ROUTINE - 15 MIN. 12. SET GOALS - 10 MIN. SET GOALS - 15 MIN. 13. READ/ WIND DOWN 3. READ/ WIND DOWN **MID-DAY BREAKS: NORK ROUTINE:** 1. DRINK WATER 11AM-5:45 PM 2. STRETCH/ P.T. REVIEW GOALS/ SCHEDULE - 15 MINS 3. GET SOME STEPS IN EMAILS - 1 hr. 4. LUNCH UNCH/ ERRANDS - 1 hr. 5. EYE EXERCISES 6. DE-CLUTTER ADD/ MISC. FUCK-OFF TIME - 1hr. ROFESSIONAL/ORGANIZATIONAL DEVT: 4 hrs/WK

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Augmentation for **future workers** needs to account for knowledge work, in particular, as an affective experience as much as it is a cerebral one.



FW-HTF-P: Building Research Capacity for Crafting Technological Interventions to Support Mixed-Ability Workplaces

Presentation By Abhijeet Saxena

#### Introduction

- How to empower people with physical and cognitive disabilities who work at university libraries.
- Reported **lower employment** and pay than people without disabilities.
- Misunderstandings or negative attitudes from their coworkers.

## **Explorative Research**

- Looking into cognitive disabilities
- Problems People Face
- Existing solutions
- The indifference created by the society
- How it impacts lives of people.

## What are Cognitive Disabilities?

"Limitations in mental functioning and in skills such as communication, self-help, and social skills"

- Michigan Alliance For Families

## Types of Cognitive Disabilities

- Autism
- ADHD
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Cerebral Palsy
- Dyslexia

## Problems People Face

- Lacking educational infrastructure.
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Self-Loathing
- Joblessness
- Difficult to find life partner
- Start a life on their own

## **Existing Solutions**

- Simplifying Content for People with Cognitive Disabilities
- Additionally, passage by the U.S. House and Senate of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) demonstrates a growing emphasis on hiring more individuals with disabilities.
- Although people may think that a cognitive disability indicates an inability to
  perform complex work, most cognitive disabilities are related to processing issues
  such as difficulty tracking rapid speech or cognitive fatigue.

## **Existing Solutions**

- It's estimated that, at any given time, 25% of the workforce may be experiencing some type of cognitive issue.
- Madelaine Sayko, president and co-founder of Cognitive Compass, an organization that advises businesses on approaches and resources to accommodate employees with cognitive disabilities.
- My Bionic Brain® work and personal life management tool.
- thinkcollege.network

#### Indifference

- Source of motivation and inspiration
- Treated with exceptions.
- Not considered worthy enough for many jobs and responsibilities.
- Psychological difficulties are not responded

### Impacts

- People don't want to get out of their couches to avoid social interactions
- Only 15% of people with cognitive disabilities are employed
- They don't want to be treated with exceptions
- Existing systems don't accommodate them



## Award 1928122; Exploring Tools to Help Workers and Organizations Adapt to Al-enabled Robots Matt Beane, UC Santa Barbara, <a href="mailto:mattbeane@ucsb.edu">mattbeane@ucsb.edu</a> Erik Brynjolfsson, Stanford, <a href="mailto:erikb@stanford.edu">erikb@stanford.edu</a>

Early, constructive adaptation to new automation should be rare and imperfect; Unclear how prior automation findings apply to learning systems; FW-HTP-P for proposal to develop technologies to facilitate constructive adaptation at scale

#### **Research Program to Date**

Primary focus: Al-enabled robotics in pick-and-pack work

Field data: 3/2019 – Present; Eight vendors, 37 multi-day observations at 14 diverse implementation sites, 350+ interviews; operational data

Survey data: Longitudinal worker survey; US MOPS of >800k manufacturing organizations on technology use

#### **Barriers to Constructive Adaptation**

Workers: "Total institution" facilities and time famine restrict worker welfare, contribution and skill

Work: Fragmented oversight of simultaneous, diverse automation efforts limits organizational learning

*Technology:* Technologists, customers and investors seek substitutes for skilled human input

#### **Future Technology, Work, Workers**

Invite-only workshop in Jan 2021

Participants from academia, nonprofits and industry

Purpose: Review findings on rare constructive adaptation, decide on target(s) for FW-HTP-R proposal

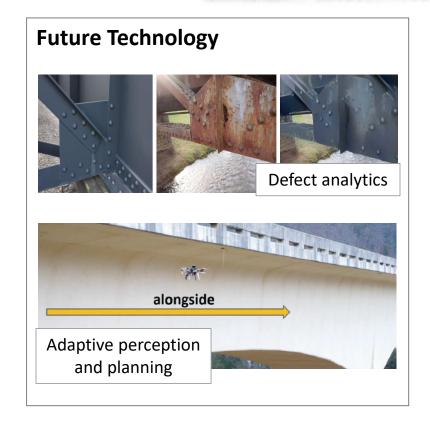
Submit FW-HTP-R by March 9

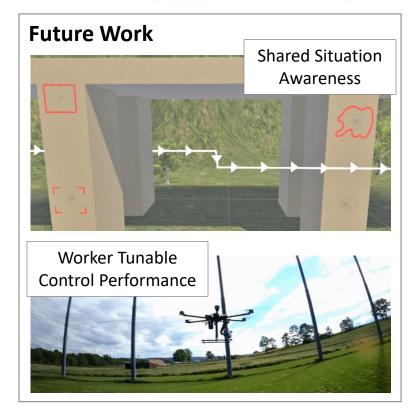


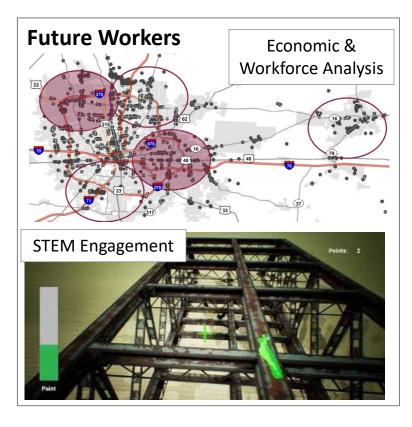
FW-HTF: First Person View and Augmented Reality for Airborne Embodied Intelligent Cognitive Assistants (Award No. IIS-1840044)

PI: Craig Woolsey, Virginia Tech (cwoolsey@vt.edu)

Project Goal: Develop theory and technology that improves the efficiency and effectiveness with which workers can inspect civil infrastructure using aerial robots.









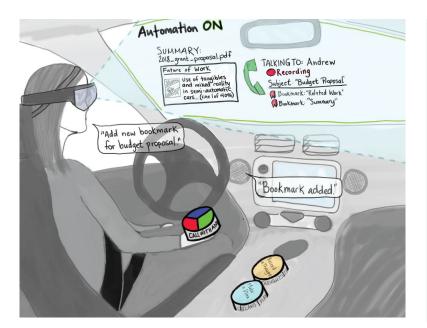
#### 1840085 The Next Mobile Office: Safe and Productive Work in Automated Vehicles

Pls: Andrew Kun, UNH (<u>andrew.kun@unh.edu</u>); Linda Boyle (UW); John Lee (U. Wisc.); Raffaella Sadun (Harvard); Orit Shaer (Wellesley)

In automated vehicles workers will engage in non-driving tasks, but with obstacles: interruptions, no access to tools and colleagues. WFH presents similar challenges. How can we help workers in cars, and WFH, be productive and maintain wellbeing?

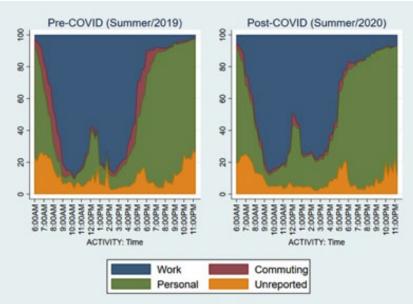
#### Tech:

- Interleaving driving/non-driving
- VR for wellbeing when WFH



#### Work and workers:

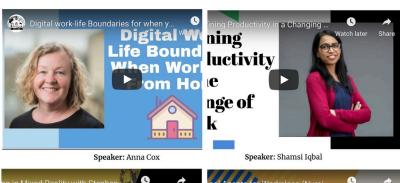
- Time use, surveys (≈2k participants)
- Commuting, WFH, connecting



#### **Bringing it together:**

HCI & FoWW: A series of conversations

27 conversations in 2020







Speaker: Stephen Brewster

Speaker: Gregory Welch



Understanding the Algorithmic Workplace: A Multi-Method Study for Comprehensive Optimization of Platforms (#1928453)

H.C. Robinson, Michael Kane, Ozlem Ergun, Steven Vallas (Northeastern University) Juliet Schor (Boston College)

**Project components** 225 interviews w platform workers and data from online forums, analysis of a delivery platform's data and experience, and development of an Agent-Based Model of the algorithmic workplace

#### Data collection and analysis year 1

**75 interviews** with shoppers, food and package delivery workers

Interviews with managers at Deliv, a package delivery platform

Analysis of Deliv data focusing on pre-post routing algorithm and shift from independent contractor to employee model

**UberPeople** data scraped and analyzed pre and post pandemic

