
In the eye of a hurricane there is quiet, for just a moment, —

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Abstract

CHI can be a multisensory overload. Attendees endure days of workshops, presentations, evening parties, and ephemeral interactions. This paper attempts to disrupt that onslaught of activities [9]. It draws inspiration from theories and methods already in HCI—e.g. mindfulness [1], reflective design [8], and slow design [4, 7]—to bring eight pages of silence to the conference. This is meant to disrupt CHI's busy schedule and help attendees foster resilience. In pursuit of these aims, the authors will use the time and pages offered by this paper to facilitate a group silence; quiet, for just a moment, in the midst of the hurricane that is CHI.

Author Keywords

Silence; mindfulness; slow design; meditation; reflective design; empathy; resilience; self-preservation.

ACM Classification Keywords

H.5.m [Information interfaces and presentation (e.g., HCI)]:
Miscellaneous

Introduction

Attendees will be asked to turn off their cellphones and put away their laptops. They will then be invited to position themselves in a circle—a formation inspired by restorative justice circles [5]. Vanessa will then lead a period of silence, which will last for eight pages. Those pages follow.

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** Guided silence in progress **

** A chime will sound and **
* Vanessa will slowly bring **
* Us out of silence. **

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We thank the participants and reviewers for engaging with this paper, its activity, and its authors in a form of collective, reflective solidarity. Acknowledging the importance of self-preservation can help us establish sustainable research practises in HCI and beyond [3].

We furthermore wish to acknowledge two former teachers for many of the authors: Stuart Walker and Gordon Brown. Their courage to openly admit and discuss the validity of self-preservation in research, and for inviting students to join them in their investigations of quiet design [10], have informed many of our subsequent practises (e.g. [2]).

The title of this workshop quotes a line from Lin-Manuel Miranda's musical *Hamilton* [6], an album that faithfully accompanied several of us during many (much needed) evenings of peer support in the past two years. Acknowledging him in this way seemed fitting.

About the authors

Vanessa, Manu, Ding, Andy, and Ben are or were members of Lancaster University's experimental HighWire CDT, which focused on applied digital innovation and radical design. They'd like to thank the Digital Economy programme (RCUK Grant EP/G037582/1) for supporting HighWire.

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