# Fostering Latin American-Centric CSCW Research and Practice

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## Abstract

This year, CSCW is coming to Latin America for the first time. In this workshop, we aim to position the region as a common context that brings together students, academics, as well as industry researchers and practitioners interested in studying, designing, developing, deploying, and/or evaluating CSCW and social computing technology, addressing challenges either emerging from or impacting Latin America. Previous initiatives have explored or highlighted the potential of Latin America for CSCW research, and this one-day workshop seeks to build on that foundation. Our objectives are to: (1) Bring together researchers, practitioners, and students interested in engaging with Latin America through their research and practice; (2) Discuss the opportunities and challenges of conducting CSCW research centered on Latin America; (3) Collaboratively mentor emerging projects focused on Latin America; (4) Advance 5-year collaborative research agendas among existing CSCW Latin America research groups; and (5) Increase the visibility of Latin American research projects within the broader international CSCW community. We will invite senior CSCW researchers from Latin America and other regions to discuss the work presented at the event. This

workshop seeks to enrich the global conversation on CSCW and highlight and strengthen Latin America's unique contributions to this field.

## CCS Concepts

• **Human-centered computing** → **Collaborative and social computing**; **Human computer interaction (HCI)**.

## Keywords

Latin America, collaboration, research and practice opportunities, regional cooperation

## 1 Introduction

CSCW as a knowledge domain has been predominantly shaped by academic and industry research in North America and Western Europe. These regions have made lasting contributions to the field and organize and often host the most important conferences in the field (e.g., CSCW and ECSCW) [3]. This year, for the first time, the CSCW conference is taking place in the Global South, particularly in Latin America (LATAM). Thus, it offers an excellent opportunity

to catalyze positive impact and technological development in the LATAM region.

LATAM's complex socio-political context, diversity of languages, geography, climates, and collectivist culture make it a unique and rich environment for research [1, 5]. In this sense, the Latin American CSCW community has been striving to highlight their work to the global community. Various initiatives in, for, and by LATAM have shown that work in this field is increasing in the region [3, 7, 8, 13].

Nevertheless, LATAM CSCW researchers and practitioners still face challenges securing such a needed visibility. The gap between dominant narratives around global and local impact, language barriers, limited research infrastructure, lack of adequate financing and resources, as well as the scarcity of spaces for collaboration and knowledge exchange, which sometimes are led by a single principal researcher without a research group [4, 7, 11, 12], remain difficult obstacles to circumvent. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic affected technological development and research in LATAM, pausing projects and reducing resources destined for science [2, 6, 10]. Thus, it is critical to analyze and understand the obstacles we face in our region and identify the opportunities and strategies that allow us to drive growth and advancement in this field as a well-connected community [9].

This one-day workshop aims to continue previous efforts from LATAM researchers and the SIGCHI LATAM Committee in building a sustainable model of long-distance collaboration. Workshop participants will also focus on developing research questions relevant to the international CSCW community and identifying practical ways to address them. This includes planning multi-site studies and preparing joint grant proposals.

## 2 Workshop activities and goals

We aim to create an engaging and safe space for open discussions about CSCW research in and about LATAM. Unlike traditional workshops focusing on specific research topics, theories, technologies, or methods, this workshop aims to promote LATAM as a hub for CSCW research and facilitate the creation of groups among researchers involved in common topics to identify collaboration opportunities and develop cross-country research agendas.

To better understand the current landscape and develop strategies for advancing CSCW research in the region, our workshop has the following goals:

(1) Collaboratively build a map of active CSCW researchers and practitioners either coming from LATAM or interested in conducting LATAM-centric CSCW work: workshop participants can add themselves and their research interests and then help spread the word about this resource when back home.
(2) Collaboratively address core LATAM-centric CSCW challenges [11], such as the academia-industry problem or the strengths and challenges that LATAM diaspora and brain drain entail, and define a sustainable yet actionable research agenda.
(3) Collaboratively plan concrete actions to raise awareness and mentorship opportunities for LATAM CSCW students and

early-career researchers, such as sustainable summer schools or joint training opportunities.

Each goal leverages existing efforts to bring together LATAM-centric CSCW researchers and practitioners, identify challenges and opportunities, and create a stronger, more sustainable community.

### 2.1 Selection of Participants

In addition to the announcements from the CSCW organizers, this workshop will be promoted through international mailing lists, Twitter/X, Slack, Facebook groups, and other platforms used by the CSCW Latin American community.

Interested participants are asked to submit a brief statement of interest in the workshop along with their multimedia work, creative pieces, or position papers in single-column ACM template format by August 20, 2024. Expressions of interest can take any of the following forms:

- Position papers (max two pages): proposing a particular idea, argument, framework, or approach related to the workshop themes.
- Video or audio narratives (up to 5 minutes): describing the applicant's motivation and interest in participating in the workshop.
- Multimedia submissions: Photo essays/visuals, zines, illustrated pieces, interactive web-based experiences, etc., that creatively engage the workshop themes.
- Possible Interventions: speculative design or technologies that the applicant is working on.

The following themes are of particular interest to this workshop:

- Research summaries of CSCW work by a single researcher or a research group in LATAM or around LATAM.
- Descriptions and illustrations of CSCW systems designed and/or deployed in LATAM.
- Perspectives on the strengths and contributions that LATAM and CSCW can make to the region.
- Proposals of possible initiatives to bring LATAM CSCW researchers and practitioners together.
- Experiences working to make LATAM CSCW research more globally visible.
- Successful cases of community-building in the region and/or examples of transnational collaboration.

The organizing committee will review the applicants' expressions of interest, with the workshop accommodating a maximum of 20 participants. The presentation format will encourage participant interaction through round-table talks involving researchers, practitioners, and students. We will ensure a safe and respectful environment for all discussions.

Senior researchers from LATAM and other regions will be invited to address critical issues related to conducting CSCW research in their respective regions and to facilitate cross-regional conversations among participants.

### 2.2 Workshop Format and Planned Activities

The workshop will be organized into sessions designed to foster participant interaction. Submissions will be made available before

the workshop, allowing participants to review the information in advance. The sessions will include:

*2.2.1 Session 1: Introduction: Cards + Invited Talks.* Organizers will present the goals of the workshop and the agenda. This moment will also be used to discuss our interest in making this workshop a safe and respectful space to share experiences and ideas.

Madness Presentation: We will use bingo cards to motivate participants to get to know each other at the beginning of the workshop. Participants will have one minute to introduce themselves to each other, and they will be encouraged to exchange trading cards.

Invited talks and discussion: Senior invited researchers from LATAM and other regions will be asked to present their work and experience briefly and describe the relevant aspects of CSCW research. These senior researchers will be invited to provide feedback and mentor workshop participants.

*2.2.2 Session 2: Affinity Diagrams and Posters.* We will ask all participants to identify and share topics of current research centered on LATAM. Participants will be divided into groups depending on the topics of their interest (e.g., collaborations, visibility, community-building, etc.). Participants will write these ideas in Post-it notes. Afterward, participants will be invited to create affinity diagrams collectively. Workshop participants will group the notes into themes according to their expertise and research.

Sketching Posters: Participants will be then split into small groups to discuss and further elaborate individual themes. Each group will design and sketch a large poster summarizing the critical aspects of their chosen themes using various materials, including the original Post-it notes and new artifacts that can emerge from the group conversation. A large world map will be available to the group working on registering where the research centered on LATAM is happening. At the end of this session, the posters will be briefly presented to all participants and placed on the wall for further work and discussion in the following sessions. All participants will be encouraged to add ideas and suggestions to all posters by adding post-its (of a different color) during the rest of the workshop.

*2.2.3 Session 3: Collaborative Tables.* Considering the common interests among participants in each group, this session will explore ideas for a collaborative project. Our goal for this activity is for team members to develop a collaborative proposal that includes at least three deliverables: one short-term (6 months), one medium-term (2 years), and one long-term (4 years). A detailed plan for the most immediate deliverable should be created to ensure that the connections and willingness to collaborate are maintained after this workshop concludes. Experienced researchers in the field will be available as mentors to support the session.

*2.2.4 Session 4: Final Presentations, Insights, and Closing.* Plans will be presented to the rest of the participants for feedback. We will ask permission to record participants during those final presentations. The concluding discussion will focus on planning future initiatives and events to better integrate LATAM-focused research into the broader international CSCW community. Our objective is to refine a strategy and action plan to enhance the representation of CSCW LATAM researchers and practitioners.

We expect all these sessions will facilitate collaboration and discussion, enhancing the overall workshop experience.

## 2.3 Equipment and Supplies

We plan to use paper cards, pens, and Post-it notes to carry out the activities. The videos from Session 4 will be uploaded to a working group's YouTube account to spread the information to the rest of the community, and those interested can get involved with the different groups. The videos will be in an accessible format (e.g., using automatic closed captions).

## 3 Organizers

**Francisco J. Gutierrez** is an Assistant Professor in Human-Centered Computing and Social Computing at the University of Chile. His current research interests are the design, use, and evaluation of interactive computing systems in extended reality environments, particularly aiming to support presence, involvement, and immersion in several application domains, such as healthcare, education, gaming, and assistive technologies. He currently acts as the Chile liaison for the ACM SIGCHI Latin American Committee and actively promotes the awareness of HCI and CSCW research, development, and education in the country. Since 2015, he has been actively involved with the CSCW conference as an author, external reviewer, and Associate Chair. He currently serves as Education and Training co-chair for the SIGCHI Latin American Committee.

**Laura S. Gaytán-Lugo** is a research professor at the Universidad de Colima in Mexico. She focuses on HCI. She is a member of the National System of Researchers in Mexico and the Mexican Academy of Computing. She is a member of the SIGCHI Latin America Committee.

**Gustavo Lopez** is a lecturer and researcher in computer science with more than ten years of experience. His areas of interest are: usability, user experience and accessibility, user-centered design, improvement of software processes, and agile practices. He currently chairs the SIGCHI Latin America Committee.

**Heloisa Candello** is a Senior Research Scientist at the Responsible Tech group at IBM Research – Brazil. She applies her expertise in user research and design to create engaging and ethical AI interactive systems, especially conversational interfaces. She has published multiple papers in prestigious HCI conferences and journals. She is also an active volunteer in the ACM SIGCHI community, where she is a co-chair of the SIGCHI Latin America committee and CUI Steering committee. Her goal is to advance the field of HCI and AI, and to empower people with the support of responsible AI technologies.

**Adriana S. Vivacqua** is a professor at the Computer Science Department at Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Brazil. Her research interests include intelligent human-computer interaction, computer-supported cooperative work, personalization, and explanation systems. She has served in multiple roles for ACM, IEEE, EUSSET and SBC (local) conferences, including CSCW, GROUP, ECSCW, CSCWD and SBSC. She is a member of the CSCW and GROUP SCs. She served as AC Equity in the SIGCHI EC (2021) and as VP at Large in the SIGCHI EC (2021-2024).

**Marisol Wong-Villacres** is an Associate Professor in Computer Science at the Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral. Her research lies at the intersection of assets-based technology design approaches, migration families, and infrastructures—including non-profits, sustainable cities, and data. She was general chair of the

Latin American Conference in Human-Computer Interaction 2023 and is a member of the SIGCHI Latin America Committee.

**Carla F. Griggio** is a tenure-track assistant professor at Aalborg Univesity in Copenhagen, Denmark. She holds an Information Systems Engineering degree from Universidad Tecnológica Nacional (Buenos Aires, Argentina) and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Université-Paris Saclay (France). She investigates how to build communication technologies that favor interpersonal relationship needs over technical practicalities. She has served in the Organizing Committees of several HCI conferences (CHI, CSCW, UIST, CLIHC) as well as in the Program Committees of CHI and CSCW. She is a member of the SIGCHI Latin American Committee.

**Luis A. Castro** works as a full professor at the Dept. of Computing and Design at the Sonora Institute of Technology (ITSON), Mexico. He holds a Ph.D. in Informatics from the University of Manchester, UK. He is the former chair of the Mexican Association on Human-Computer Interaction (AMexIHC). He is a member of the SIGCHI Latin America Committee.

**Saiph Savage** is an Assistant Professor at Northeastern University in the Khoury College of Computer Sciences and directs the Northeastern Civic A.I. Lab. She has been recognized as one of the top innovators under 35 by MIT Tech Review and as a leading AI expert in Mexico by Forbes Magazine. Dr. Savage has earned significant grants from the NSF and prestigious awards at scientific venues like ACM CHI and CSCW. Her influential roles extend to advising federal governments and policy-making bodies in Latin America and the U.S. She is an active member of the OECD's Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, focusing on AI and the future of work. Dr. Savage holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from UCSB and studied Computer Engineering at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), reflecting her strong ties to Latin America's tech and policy landscapes.

**Claudia López** works as an assistant professor at the Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María, Chile. She holds a Ph.D. in Information Sciences and Technology, and serves as a principal investigator at two Chilean research centers: CENIA and FAIR. Her projects are primarily focused on social computing and human-centered artificial intelligence.

**Cleidson de Souza** is an Associate Faculty at the Federal University of Pará, Brazil. His current research interests are in collaborative software development. He has actively organized LATAM-centric CSCW workshops at conferences like CSCW and CLIHC.

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