

Value Sensitive Design Project

INSC 543/CSE 599P Value Sensitive Design

October 14	Project Descriptions
November 4	Phase 1 Presentations; Phase 1 Write-up
December 9 & ??	Final Project Presentations
December 16	Final Report

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the Value Sensitive Design project is to allow you to explore the interactional theory, direct and indirect stakeholder analyses, value tension analyses, and Value Sensitive Design tripartite methodology in the integrative and iterative manner in which it is intended to be employed. In this way, your Value Sensitive Design project contrasts with the in-class studio activities that allow you to explore specific Value Sensitive Design methods in a well-focused context.

PROJECT TOPIC

Implications for human values can be found in virtually all information systems. Rather than constrain your explorations to a particular value or type of information system or context-of-use, we prefer to leave the project topic open-ended so as to accommodate your interests and larger research goals (in particular dissertation or MS capstone project research). For example, you may want to study the value implications of adaptive interfaces or of blogging, or investigate mechanisms for supporting privacy in location-aware systems, or the role of participation, local knowledge, and respect in medical delivery systems in developing nations. The starting point for your project may be (a) an analysis of the value implications of a technology you are developing, (b) a value you wish to support through information systems, (c) an investigation of users' experiences of an existing technology, or (d) the design of new technical mechanisms to support a particular value. In all of these instances, you will likely move quickly to a conceptual investigation to ground the values under study and those affected by the system. If you're unsure that a particular project would be appropriate, please check with us well in advance of the October 14 deadline for project descriptions.

PROJECT SCOPE

In most instances, a single quarter is too short a time to carry out the entire tripartite methodology. So, we will constrain the project scope a bit. Every project must do a conceptual investigation since (as we shall see) it is difficult to make progress if you do not know what values and whose values are at stake. In addition to the conceptual investigation, each project must do at least one other type of investigation – technical or empirical. Finally, for the type of investigation that you don't pursue, you need to (a) to lay out a plan for how you would pursue such an investigation if you had time to carry it out, and (b) to imagine at least two ways that that investigation might go and the implications. In planning your project, you should pay attention to how the investigations are iterative and integrative.

GROUP SIZE

Generally, we encourage students to work on the course projects in groups of 2-4. However, we also hope students will use the course as a way to integrate Value Sensitive Design with their dissertation or capstone work, so in such cases, students can do a one-person project if other group members can't be found.

FINAL REPORT

The final report should take the form of a full conference paper in ACM conference format (e.g., as used for CHI), with all of the standard parts of a research paper. The CHI publication format is available at <http://www.acm.org/sigs/publications/proceedings-templates>, and the general ACM format (also including better latex support) is at <http://www.acm.org/sigs/publications/proceedings-templates>. If in your project you didn't use the full Value Sensitive Design methodology, a Future Work section should describe how you would undertake a complete investigation. (Our hope here is that some of these reports will eventually turn into conference papers!)

BENCHMARKS AND DEADLINES

- October 14 Identify project members and articulate a project description. Turn in a 1-page statement of intent including (a) project title and a pithy way for us to refer to your project, (b) a list of project members, (c) a 1-paragraph project description, and (d) which type(s) of investigations you anticipate conducting during the quarter. If your project will include the use of human subjects, please attach a sample informed consent form at this time.
- November 4 Phase 1 due. For Phase 1 write up as much of your project as you've completed in the final report format, and outline what remains to be done. This should include your conceptual investigation and as much of your other investigation(s) as you have completed. The length of this document will depend on your particular project but we imagine it might range from 3 - 5 pages. Class presentation and discussion of your project thus far and plans for the remainder of the project.
- December 9 & ?? Class presentation of almost completed projects.
- December 16 Final project report due.