

## **IEA NewsBriefs: March 2022**

Dear IEA Community

During the month of March, women were celebrated world-wide for their contributions to shaping and advancing society. While great strides have been made to promote equality, women still face gender-based biases. This necessitates that we make a concerted effort to promote and recognise the role that women play on a daily basis across all spheres of life and ensure that we design systems and societies that do not unfairly discriminate against women. We thus acknowledge the critical work being carried out by HFE professionals to promote and support gender equality, diversity, and inclusion in workplaces and society at large.

In this edition of the IEA NewsBriefs we continue to keep you updated on some of the events and opportunities available for HFE professionals. Look out also for the IEA societies spotlight feature on Gesellschaft für Arbeitswissenschaft e.V. (GfA), the German society of human factors/ ergonomics. As always, please feel free to forward this IEA NewsBriefs issue to your Human factors/ Ergonomics society members and other stakeholders. To include an item in a future issue, you may reach the IEA NewsBriefs Editor at: [sma.ngcamu@gmail.com](mailto:sma.ngcamu@gmail.com).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **IEA Fellow Award applications closing 30 April 2022**

The call for nominations for the 2022 IEA Fellow Awards is still open. Please nominate deserving HFE colleagues that have contributed extraordinary or sustained superior accomplishments within the discipline. Nominees should be full members in good standing of a Federated or Affiliated Ergonomics Society for at least the preceding 10 years and must have served the HFE community at an international level. Applications close on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2022. Download the application from <https://iea.cc/annual-awards/iea-fellowship/>

### **IEA/Tsinghua and IEA/Kingfar applications now open**

The IEA/Kingfar Award is given annually to early career professionals to promote and reward high-quality original research and applications on new and emerging HFE issues or issues specifically related to industrially developing countries, as well as to promote a career path in HFE. Nominees can be from any country including both IDCs and developed countries. Up to 13 winners can be recognised each year, with eight awards given to PhD students, and five awards to early career scholars/researchers (within 10 years of completing a PhD). The award amount is \$1,000 for each student winner and \$1,500 for each early career winner.

The IEA/Tsinghua Award for Collaborative Human Factors/Ergonomics Education is given annually to honor persons (e.g. researchers, teachers) who, through international and/or inter-regional collaboration, have made significant and outstanding contributions to the success of postgraduate educational programs that include human factors/

ergonomics (HFE) courses or substantial HFE content in the curriculum. The intent of this award is to mobilize educators worldwide for HFE education. Up to four programs may be awarded. Each program may be represented by up to two nominees. The award consists of a monetary prize of \$4,000 per selected program.

Further details on these two awards, including the nomination criteria can be accessed here: <https://iea.cc/iea-kingfar-award/> for the IEA/Kingfar Awards and here: <https://iea.cc/iea-tsinghua-award/> for the IEA/Tsinghua Awards. The deadline for submission of applications for both awards is the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, 2022.

### **IEA collaboration on WHO/ILO technical brief “Healthy and safe telework”**

Drs. Michelle Robertson and Kathleen Mosier represented the IEA by participating in a task force on telework and contributing to this important joint WHO/ILO effort, which resulted in a technical brief that can be accessed here <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240040977>

### **IEA Core Competencies**

A group of young graduate Iranian HFE researchers, who also publish an Ergonomics Student Magazine, have translated the IEA Core Competencies into Farsi/Persian in order to increase awareness of the profession in their area. A copy of the translated document can be found here: <https://secureservercdn.net/50.62.89.79/m4v.211.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/ESM-IEA9th.pdf>

The IEA applauds this initiative and thanks the Iranian Ergonomics Student Magazine team for their efforts. If anyone else would like to follow their example, please let us know. We would welcome assistance in this way.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **IEA-Endorsed Events**

#### **IEA Webinar on Exoskeletons on 8th April 2022 at 13:00 UTC**

Exoskeletons have been purported to be the next frontier in fortifying human biomechanical capabilities and curbing the advent of musculoskeletal disorders linked to overexertion and excessive exposure to biomechanical loading. Some evidence suggests that exoskeletons may be beneficial while others highlight their limitations. To shed light on some of the questions around exoskeletons, the IEA webinar on exoskeletons will provide an overview of the current use of exoskeletons from an HFE perspective. Some current application domains will be presented along with challenges in their design and their potential impact on well-being and performance. The webinar will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April at 13h00 UTC. More detailed information on this event can be found here: <https://iea.cc/iea-webinar-on-exoskeletons/>

Register for free to join the webinar and participate in the discussion by following this link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_fTP4LVCFQJiKzLjNV\\_sNRQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fTP4LVCFQJiKzLjNV_sNRQ)

### **Ergonomics and Human Factors, April 11-12 and 25-26, 2022, Birmingham**

This prestigious HFE conference, organised by the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (CIEHF) will be presented online between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of April, as well as in-person on the 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April in Birmingham. Some of the themes that will be covered in the sessions include sustainability, automation, defense, UX, aviation, healthcare, well-being, technology, safety culture, tools and techniques, non-technical skills and rail. Keynote lectures will be delivered by leading figures in science and industry and public administration. You can access the programme and find out more about this conference here: <https://conference.ergonomics.org.uk/> and you can book your ticket to attend here: <https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/login?redirect=/events/2561/registrations/new>

### **Healthcare Systems Ergonomics and Patient Safety (HEPS) 2022, 2-4 November, 2022, Netherlands**

HEPS2022 is the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the triennial conference on Human Systems Ergonomics and Patient Safety, endorsed by [Human Factors NL](#), and initiated by IEA's Technical Committee Healthcare Ergonomics. The conference will take place from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> of November, 2022. The theme for the conference is “Convergence: Breaking down the barriers between disciplines” and will focus on the integration of knowledge, methods, and expertise from the disciplines of Human Factors/Ergonomics and of Medicine and Health for a safe and humane, high-quality healthcare system”. Please note that the deadline for submitting proposals for Special Sessions is the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and the deadline for Abstract submissions is the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022. You can find out more about the conference here: <https://www.heps2022.com/>

### **Other Notable Past Events and Developments**

#### **HWWE 2021 Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati, December 1 – 3, 2021.**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual gathering of Indian Society of Ergonomics (ISE), International Conference on ‘Humanizing Work and Work Environment’ (HWWE 2021) was hosted by the Center for Ergonomics: User centered Design and Occupational Wellbeing, Department of Design, IIT Guwahati from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, 2021. The theme of the conference was ‘User Centered Design for Quality Life’. The conference was endorsed by International Ergonomics Association (IEA) and Asian Council of Ergonomics Design (ACED). Presidents of both the association and council addressed the august gathering during their respective sessions.

More than 300 scientific papers were received from various national and international research groups and presented during six parallel sessions of the conference. Researchers from various regional countries like Bangladesh, Malaysia and Japan and other parts of the world like, USA, Brazil, and Canada were in attendance. During the conference a special meeting on the advancement of ergonomics in the future from the perspective of research and academia was also discussed, where all ergonomics societies of the IEA BRICS+ network participated.

## **IEA Mission to Cuba, March 2022**

The IEA, through its President, Prof. Jose Orlando Gomes, visited 2 important Cuban universities, the Technological University of Havana (CUJAE), and the Camilo Cienfuegos University, in Matanzas meeting university authorities, HFE professors, graduate and undergraduate students, as well as deputies of the Cuban Parliament. The purpose of these engagements focused on the legalization of the Cuban Ergonomics Association. Prof. Gomes also gave a lecture at CUJAE and at the II Universidad-Sociedade International Scientific Event, organized by the Camilo Cienfuegos University.

In this IEA mission, Prof. Juan Carlos Velasquez, Director of the Doctoral Program in HFE for Latin America, also presented their doctorate program and initiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Universidad del Valle with the CUJAE and the University Camilo Cienfuegos. The MOUs have already been signed by the two respective Cuban rectors to enable these institutions to join the Latin American University Network and participate in the Doctoral Program with future students, professors, researchers and laboratories.

## **SPOTLIGHT ON IEA SOCIETIES**

Each month the IEA would like to showcase one of the member societies. If your society would like to be highlighted in this way, please contact the NewsBriefs editor.

### **Gesellschaft für Arbeitswissenschaft e.V. (GfA)**

The GfA connects all German-speaking ergonomists from Germany, Austria and Switzerland and other countries. GfA sees itself as a research-society where science, practice and social developments are considered in an integrated manner. It provides scientifically sound studies to foster and steer the development of working-life and societal-life. The various stakeholders and organizations relevant to ergonomics are represented on the board of the society, so that work design can be successfully implemented.

#### **Fact sheet**

- **Established:** 16 October 1953
- **Approximate number of members:** 516
- **Website:** <https://www.gesellschaft-fuer-arbeitswissenschaft.de/>

#### **Overview of GfA activities**

- The Spring-Congress is the major annual event and has about 400 participants. It gives the overall overview of the current status of ergonomics.
- The Autumn-Conference has about 120 Participants and provides a detailed view on a particular theme of interest in the community.
- Workshops on certain ergonomic topics are offered and a specific junior program

for young members is established via the GfA-next network twice a year. Previous programs under this initiative included the following: Digital methods in education and training, Sociology of work New Work / hybrid societies, Digital human models, Cognitive Neuro-ergonomics / Psycho-ergonomics and Human-robot interaction.

- Networking and collaborative initiatives include:
  - GfA is a member of the Centre for Registration of European Ergonomists (CREE) which grants professional certification.
  - GfA coordinates with other human-related societies in German-speaking countries and forms an overarching working-association with the PASIG (Psychology of Occupational Safety and Health), the DGPs (German Society for Psychology), and the DGAH (German Society for Occupational Hygiene). This working-association coordinates important topics for humane work design throughout Germany.

### **Status of Human Factors/ Ergonomics (HFE) in the countries where the society is located**

Virtually all practitioners and decision-makers who work on ergonomic topics in the German-speaking countries are organized via the GfA. The implementation of scientific findings into occupational practice via the society is correspondingly broad. Ergonomic topics cover the entire socio-technical system ranging from mental and physical stress in all possible forms of work, including topics such as home office and work-life balance in the context of the pandemic up to classic topics of work design in assembly and production such as muscular strain.

With its expertise, GfA supports the implementation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act in Germany and, in addition, supports the establishment of ergonomic standards in supplier organizations on the global market through the European supply chain law and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The current challenges seen are to establish the approach of a humane work design consistently throughout all facets of human work. It is key for this to see work science proactively rather than reactively incorporated into the work design processes. In order to enhance health, safety and well-being for people proactively, the appropriate education with regard to ergonomic topics during the qualification processes is seen as a key success factor. Another vital topic is the connection of occupational science topics with the sustainability goals, pointing out that ergonomics will be a key enabler for achieving sustainability goals.

### **Upcoming GfA events**

- Coming autumn 2022 - Digital Human Modelling and occupational safety - Leipzig: [https://www.gesellschaft-fuer-arbeitswissenschaft.de/veranstaltungen\\_herbstkonferenzen-gesellschaft-fuer-arbeitswissenschaft-](https://www.gesellschaft-fuer-arbeitswissenschaft.de/veranstaltungen_herbstkonferenzen-gesellschaft-fuer-arbeitswissenschaft-)

[gfa.htm#anker\\_0](#)

- Coming spring 2023 - Sustainability and Ergonomics - Hannover: <https://www.gesellschaft-fuer-arbeitswissenschaft.de/>

We thank GfA for their contribution to the development of HFE and for sharing insights about their society with the wider IEA community. If your society would like to be featured in future editions of the IEA NewsBriefs, please contact ([sma.ngcamu@gmail.com](mailto:sma.ngcamu@gmail.com)).

### **LINKS OF INTEREST**

Archive of previous NewsBriefs: <https://iea.cc/iea-newsbriefs-archive-of-past-issues/>

More news from IEA: <https://iea.cc/category/headlines/>

IEA Press publications: <https://iea.cc/publication/>

IEA YouTube channel (includes recorded IEA webinars): <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDnjCjRcYB7rBR2PJFw6k6w>

IEA LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1114517/>

IEA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/InternationalErgonomicsAssociation>