

WEIMIN HOU

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Human Computer Interaction (HCI), Qualitative Research Methods, Information Architecture, Interaction Design, Online Communities, and Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC)

TEACHING INTERESTS

- HCI, Interaction and Interface Design, Qualitative Research Methods, Research Methods for Interaction Design, Information Architecture, and Human Factors in Information Systems

EDUCATION

- **Ph.D.** in Information Systems (IS), University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), GPA 4.0/4.0, expected May 2008

Advisors: Dr. Anita Komlodi/Dr. Jennifer Preece (2003-2004)

Dissertation: Supporting Children's Online Identity In International Communities

- **M.S.** in Information Systems, UMBC, GPA 4.0/4.0, January 2002
- **M.A.** in Intercultural Communication, Department of Modern Languages & Linguistics (MLL), UMBC, GPA 3.9/4.0, May 2000

Advisor: Dr. Omar Ka

Scholarly Paper: Code-switching between English and Mandarin among Chinese Students at the University of Maryland

- **B.A.** in English Education, Capital Normal University (CNU), Department of English, Beijing, China, GPA 3.8/4.0, July 1993

Thesis: Nonverbal Communication and Its Use by Different Cultures

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE Graduate Research Assistant, Department of IS, UMBC, 06/00 – 06/07

- The International Children's Digital Library Online Communities (ICDLCommunities) Project, funded by National Science Foundation (NSF), 01/05 – 06/07
 - Qualitative research to evaluate a cross-language online community prototype for children

- Designed weekly research protocol and led data collection sessions at the participating elementary schools in the United States (US)
- Administered usability evaluation, interviews, and questionnaires with children ages 7-10
- Coordinated data processing and analysis and analyzed data from Hungary, Mexico, and the US using the NVivo qualitative data analysis software
- Made design recommendations for the ICDLCommunities prototype
- Wrote reports from the research findings and supervised graduate and undergraduate students
- Gender in Science and Engineering: Investigating Gender-Based Differences in Perception and Use of I.T. as Factors in I.T. Career Choice Project, funded by NSF, 01/05-07/06
 - Studied the relationship between gender and the use and perceptions of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) among US middle school students, how self-efficacy was formed through the ICT use, and how it influenced the students' future career choices
 - Led focus groups with middle school students
 - Trained middle school students in creating video self-documentaries about their daily ICT usage and interviewed them on their experience
 - Analyzed focus group and video data in the NVivo qualitative data analysis software
 - Wrote reports from the research findings
- Independent Studies
 - Comparison of the online information seeking behavior of North American, Chinese, and Hungarian students (Advisor: Dr. Anita Komlodi)
 - Boundary objects in software maintenance (Advisors: Drs. Carolyn Seaman and Wayne G. Lutters)
 - Cross-cultural comparison of instant messaging behavior between American and Chinese student in the US (Advisors: Drs. Jennifer Preece and Anita Komlodi)
 - Locality in Computer-Mediated Communication systems (Advisor: Dr. Wayne G. Lutters)
- Assisted Dr. Carolyn Seaman in developing software maintenance surveys, organized raw survey data, and conducted initial data analysis using Nvivo, 06/00 – 01/02
- Supervised UMBC's Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) students in the HCI area, summer 2004 & 2006

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Instructor/Teaching Assistant, Department of Information Systems, UMBC, 01/03 – 06/07
 - Co-taught IS 387: Web Content Development, Fall 2006 & Spring 2007
 - Taught the lab session “Creating Web Pages with HTML” for course IS 403: User Interface Design, Fall 2004
 - Taught the lab session “VBA for Modelers: Developing Decision Support Systems with Microsoft Excel” for course IS 425: Decision Support Systems, Spring & Fall 2003
- Chinese Instructor, Department of MLL, UMBC, 01/99 – 05/00
 - Taught Elementary Chinese to undergraduate students at UMBC
- English Instructor, Department of College English, CNU, Beijing, China, 07/93 – 05/96
 - Taught a range of English classes to undergraduate non-English majors at CNU

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Summer and Winter Undergraduate Academic Orientation Advisor, UMBC, 2000 - 2006
- Software Translator Intern, International Communications, (a multilingual localization firm that was later acquired by Lionbridge Technologies), Framingham, MA, 06/99 – 08/99
- Executive Assistant, Beijing Representative Office, Pliva d.d. Zagreb, Croatia, 07/96 – 07/98
- Interpreter/Tour Guide (part-time), Beijing Translation & Tourism Company, Beijing, China, 07/94 - 07/98

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

1. Komlodi, A., **Hou, W.**, Preece, J., Druin, A., Golub, E., Albuero, J., et al. (2007). Evaluating a Cross-Cultural Children's Online Book Community: Lessons Learned for Sociability, Usability, and Cultural Exchange. *Interacting with Computers*, 19(4), 494-511.
2. Komlodi, A., Lutters, W. G., **Hou, W.**, & Kaur, M. (In preparation). Gender differences in technology use and attitudes among middle-school students. To be submitted to the International Journal of Human-Computer Studies.

CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. **Hou, W.**, Komlodi, A., Lutters, W. G., & Preece, J. (2007). Does Instant Messaging Form a New Online Culture? Key Similarities and Differences in the Everyday Experience of Chinese and

- North American Users. *Poster proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, (HCII)*, Berlin; New York: Springer-Verlag, pp. 297-301. CD-ROM.
2. **Hou, W.**, Komlodi, A., Preece, J., Druin, A., & Golub, E. (2007). A Pilot Study of Supporting Children's Online Identity Representation in International Communities. *Poster proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, (HCII)*, Berlin; New York: Springer-Verlag, pp.1094-1098. CD-ROM.
 3. **Hou, W.**, Komlodi, A., Preece, J., Druin, A., Golub, E., Liao, S., et al. (2007). A Pilot Study of Supporting Children's Online Identity Representation in ICDLCommunities. *Poster presentation at the 24th Annual Human-Computer Interaction Lab Symposium*, University of Maryland, May 31st, Maryland, USA.
 4. Kaur, M., **Hou, W.**, Lutters, W. G., Komlodi, A., Boot, L., Morrell, C., et al. (2006). "My Mom is a Cell-Phone Illiterate" - The Influence of Parental Perceptions on Pre-Adolescent Attitudes Towards ICT. *Proceedings of the 6th ACM Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing*, San Diego, CA, ACM Press.
 5. **Hou, W.**, Kaur, M., Komlodi, A., Lutters, W. G., Boot, L., Cotten, S. R., et al. (2006). "Girls Don't Waste Time": Pre-Adolescent Attitudes toward ICT. *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)*, April 22-27, Montréal, Canada. ACM Press, pp. 875-880.
 6. **Hou, W.**, Komlodi, A., & Preece, J. (2005). The Study Design of a Cross-Cultural Instant Messaging Study. *Proceedings of the International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, Online Communities and Social Computing Conference (HCII)*, July 22-27, 2005, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. New York: Springer-Verlag. CD-ROM.
 7. Lutters, W. G., & **Hou, W.** (2005). Recapturing What Was Lost: Re-emphasizing Locality in Social Interactions on the Net. *Proceedings of the International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, Online Communities and Social Computing Conference (HCII)*, July 22-27, 2005, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. New York: Springer-Verlag. CD-ROM.
 8. Komlodi, A., **Hou, W.**, Jofoldi, H., Kessel, R., Riggs, T., Liang, C., et al. (2004). Cross-cultural comparison of Web searching behavior. In M. Khosrow-Pour (Ed.), *Proceedings of the 15th International Conference of the Information Resources Management Association (IRMA)*. Hershey, PA: IRMA Press, pp. 1169-1170.

AWARDS

- Teaching and Research Assistantships at UMBC, 1998 - 2007.
- Travel Grants for IRMA '04, HCII '05, CHI '06, and HCII '07 from Graduate Student Association, UMBC, May 2004, July 2005, April 2006, and July 2007.
- Selected to attend Faculty Horizons, the NSF-funded Advance program, "a workshop for aspiring STEM faculty," July 13-15, 2006 at UMBC.
- Selected to attend the 3rd and 4th graduate student Internet research workshop - WebShop - funded by NSF at University of Maryland, College Park, 2003 & 2004.

REFERENCES**Dr. Anita Komlodi**

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