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The Future of Hybrid Care and Wellbeing in HCI

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ABSTRACT
This workshop focuses on remote care and wellbeing as we transition into a world increasingly adopting hybrid lifestyles and modes of operation. Care and care work have predominantly been researched in traditionally in-person interpersonal contexts. The burgeoning uptake and incorporation of information and communication technologies towards remote care have created new workflows and resulted in emerging questions around the definitions and scope of care practice in response. The confluence of technological, sociocultural, geopolitical, and climatic realities of the current day brings into focus the need to unpack the idea of "care," and the role that HCI researchers could play in creating equitable futures of remote and hybrid care. This workshop will focus on questions such as "What does holistic wellbeing look like in the era of hybrid caregiving?" and "How does environmental care factor into our research practice?" We invite researchers and practitioners from academia and industry in this workshop to reflect on these questions and advance the future of remote care work at CHI.

KEYWORDS
hybrid, remote, care, future of work

1 INTRODUCTION

"On the most general level, we suggest that caring be viewed as a species activity that includes everything that we do to maintain, continue, and repair our 'world' so that we can live in it as well as possible. That world includes our bodies, our selves, and our environment, all of which we seek to interweave in a complex, life-sustaining web." [12]

The recent years have seen a significant reimagining of what work and workplaces look like, precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In many professions, including healthcare, remote and hybrid work practices have become more prevalent since the onset of the pandemic, with geographic boundaries, commute constraints no longer hindering collaboration and production [1, 6]. These recent changes coexist with, and compound, other longer-term modifications to work practice including the growth of gig work and platformization (e.g., [7, 33]), and approaches towards automation of many forms of vocational work [23, 40]. The COVID-19 pandemic has also changed our workflows and values around work and care responsibilities and our priorities. Not only have we been pushed to question how we live and work, but hybrid modes of operation now allow us to receive care remotely and work remotely. One outcome of this trend is a growing support among HCI researchers for centering workers' needs and wellbeing in this changing landscape [10, 22, 29, 34], and in the organization of workplaces in the future [38, 39]. With changing technological, economic, geopolitical, and sociocultural realities catalyzed by rapid and slow crises like the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, there has also been increased public and academic attention towards centering care for the environment in the future of work. As we transition into a post-pandemic world increasingly adopting hybrid lifestyles and modes of operation, a focus on care can help us make sense of shifting priorities and how it may be enabled (or not) by the work environment. In light of conversations on building such caring futures of work [10, 17], we invite scholars to think about care in an era of remote and hybrid work, by focusing on the activities we do to maintain, continue, and repair our bodies, our selves, and our environment [12].

Much research on care in workplaces in HCI has been in healthcare contexts, with a broad understanding that care work refers to the labor involved in improving the physical and mental health and wellbeing of care recipients (e.g., [41]). Prior research has examined caregiving by formal healthcare workers like nurses [19] and medical teams [13], as well as typically informal care workers...
We intend to welcome relevant themes that our participants propose, in alignment with the goals of our workshop. We will start with inviting conversations on the following themes:

**Wellbeing in an Era of Remote Work:** This theme will encourage participants to reflect on shifting priorities around work and care, and how the growing transition to remote and hybrid work may affect individual and community wellbeing. Our reflections will include addressing: "How can technology and workplaces support remote care?" and "What are the effects of moving work remote on worker wellbeing?"

**Remote and Hybrid Caregiving:** The goal of this theme is to discuss remote care in the context of personal and wellbeing, generally exemplified by telemedicine and telehealth [3, 26, 27], patient education and empowerment [5, 14, 24], and health tracking and datafication [4, 11]. We aim to extend conversations in this domain by unpacking how current understandings and approaches to this research could adapt to the increasing adoption of hybrid caregiving practices. We encourage participants to draw connections between their submissions and their worldviews around the hybrid future of care and wellbeing. Our discussions, ideally, will help answer questions like: "What does holistic wellbeing look like in the era of hybrid caregiving?"

**Futures of Environmental Care and Sustainability:** Through this theme, we will deliberate on broader dimensions of hybrid care work including how we can draw research attention to environmental care both directly—as a subject of study—and indirectly—as a reflection on the environmental costs of our research. This theme will offer an opportunity to create future research directions on sustainable computing practices in hybrid care work, as well as a meta-level recognition, and plans for amelioration, of the planetary and environmental impacts of our research.

## 3 WORKSHOP LOGISTICS

### 3.1 Workshop Participation

We plan to accept 20-25 participants into our workshop. We will advertise calls for participation on mailing lists used by the HCI/CHI community and other relevant disciplines (e.g., Archive of Internet Researchers, Global Digital Health Network), social media spaces like on Twitter and Facebook (e.g., CHI Meta, CSCW Meta), and on relevant Discord Servers and Slack Workspaces from workshops organized in the past around care, wellbeing, and the future of work. The organizers will also individually share this call on their professional and personal social networks, potentially reaching researchers and practitioners outside of HCI. Finally, the call for participation, along with relevant and logistical details, will be uploaded on our workshop website (https://sites.google.com/view/hybrid-care-wellbeing-chi2023) following acceptance.

### 3.2 Pre-Workshop

Our pre-workshop activities will be primarily structured towards creating a shared starting point for discussion. We will create a channel on the SIGCHI Discord server, inviting organizers and accepted participants to begin conversing and sharing relevant resources. These resources could include media like podcasts, videos, and zines, and academic articles relevant to the themes of discussion. All workspace members will be encouraged to share bios and other relevant details about their work to facilitate community building and professional networking. We will use Miro boards to facilitate comments and discussions on all accepted submissions, allowing for asynchronous engagement prior to the workshop. Finally, we will create a Slack channel for participants to note their expectations of the workshop that we will try to incorporate into its structure.

### 3.3 Workshop

In alignment with the intellectual goals of our workshop, we will support in-person participation as well as remote participation via Zoom. Based on the organizers’ and accepted participants’ modalities of participation, we will create discussion groups—each moderated by at least one organizer—that are either fully in-person or fully remote during the workshop. All discussions would occur simultaneously at the time of the workshop, with online participants being video-conferenced into the workshop venue. We will ensure opportunities for discussions between the in-person and remote participants during the workshop. The organizers will review all submissions prior to the workshop and categorize accepted submissions into discussion groups based on the topics of the submissions.
We will assign participants in-person or online groups at the start of the workshop.

Opening and Introductions (1 hour): We will begin by introducing the organizers of the workshop, and our topics of discussion to all the attendees. Following this, we will do a quick round of introductions within discussion groups for participants to get to know each other. In the final 20 minutes, we will have 3-4 participants—chosen based on their submissions—present on their research, to set the stage for following discussions.

Small Group Discussions (2 hours): We will provide all groups with discussion prompts that draw on the themes and questions described earlier, as well as emerging themes from the accepted submissions. They will also be asked to develop plans of action for future work in this space at a personal and collective level. At least one organizer will be part of each discussion group, and will serve as the facilitator and note-taker to maintain a record of discussions within the groups. After 50 minutes, we will reconvene a discussion with the whole group from 10 minutes where we will summarize discussions within the smaller groups. We will repeat this process for the next hour.

Big Group Discussion and Closing Remarks (1 hour): The groups will reconvene into a larger group discussion where we will encourage participants to share outcomes of the discussions, including identifying potential future research directions. We will encourage participants from other groups to ask questions to spark further conversations beyond the workshop.

3.4 Post-Workshop Plans
We will summarize and share the notes from the group discussions with the participants after the workshop. Attendees will also be invited to contribute to a Medium blog post and an article in ACM Interactions reflecting on the group discussions. We will share the blog post with the HCI community over social media (Twitter) and on our website. To keep the community engaged beyond the workshop, we will also create a Slack or Discord space for the workshop attendees, which will also be open to their colleagues or collaborators interested in care work to enable further discussion.

4 ORGANIZERS
All organizers have been involved in research on care and the future of work for several years and across multiple geographical contexts. In organizing this workshop, we bring our diverse domain expertise and methodological backgrounds towards facilitating meaningful discussions. More details about the organizers’ backgrounds are available below:

Karthik S. Bhat is a PhD candidate in Human-Centered Computing at Georgia Tech. His research takes an ecological perspective to caregiving and investigates how emerging technologies like conversational agents, telemedicine, and wearable sensors can be leveraged towards supporting and augmenting caregiving relationships.

Azra Ismail is a PhD candidate in Human-Centered Computing at Georgia Tech. Her research focuses on the design of data-driven technologies for maternal and child care delivery by workers in India, amidst rapid digitization and datafication of work, and changing gendered norms around digital access.

Amanda Hall is a Senior User Researcher at Microsoft Research in Health Futures on the Medical Experiences and Design Team and an affiliate assistant professor at the University of Washington, Department of Biomedical Informatics and Medical Education. Her research focuses on the design and development of technology (hardware and software) for improved medical decision making and health behavior change. She has over 6 years of experience working in home healthcare doing patient care coordination and leading telehealth programs.

Naveena Karusala is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard’s Center for Research on Computation and Society. Her research is at the intersection of care, labor, and emerging technologies, spanning domains such as health, safety, and social work.

Helena Mentis is a professor in the Department of Information Systems at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). She investigates situated communication and collaboration practices in healthcare, and, in turn, develops and deploys new mechanisms for collaboratively sensing, presenting, and interacting with information.

John Vines is a Professor in the School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh, and co-directs the Institute for Design Informatics. His research focuses on participatory and co-creative approaches to technology design, and he has conducted projects at the intersection of ageing, care and wellbeing for over 15 years.

Neha Kumar is an associate professor at Georgia Tech, conducting research at the intersection of human-centered computing and global development. Much of her work focuses on global health and the role that technology might play in enabling equitable, healthier futures of frontline health work.

5 CALL FOR PARTICIPATION
The goal of this workshop is to discuss remote care and wellbeing as we transition into a world increasingly adopting hybrid lifestyles and modes of operation. This workshop will be a venue to discuss questions such as “What does holistic wellbeing look like in the era of hybrid caregiving?”, “How does environmental care factor into our research practice?” among others around hybrid care and wellbeing. We invite researchers and practitioners from academia and industry to reflect on these questions and advance the future of remote and hybrid care at CHI.

We invite submissions in the form of short papers (2-4 pages excluding references) or abstracts (300 words). All submissions will be due on Feb 23, 2023, and need to be formatted according to the ACM Master template (single column). Submissions should ideally be focused on remote and hybrid care, future of care work, and related topics. The workshop themes can serve as a guide, and we encourage submissions that go beyond the ideas covered within them on these topics. Submissions may present current or past research projects, or could be position papers, literature reviews, or theoretical analyses.

All submissions will be reviewed by the organizers, and accepted submissions will be posted on our website (https://sites.google.com/view/hybrid-care-wellbeing-chi2023). Please note that at least one author of each accepted submission must attend the workshop—we
will support both remote and in-person participation—and all participants be registered for both the workshop and at least one day of the conference. Please direct any questions to ksrbhat@gatech.edu.

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REFERENCES


