
Editorial

Denis A. Coelho

Department of Supply Chain and Operations Management,
School of Engineering,
Jönköping University,
Box 1026, 55111 Jönköping, Sweden
Email: denis.coelho@ju.se

It has been over a decade since *IJHFE* was launched and first published in 2012, gradually expanding its reach while recognition of the quality of the journal has also been growing steadfastly. The first years saw some of the earlier volumes spanning more than one year, and in some but few cases combining two of the four issues per volume in one. Volume 1 spanned the year 2012 with four issues, and such a steady stream of content would again be achieved in 2019 and maintained up to now.

There have been recent news for the *International Journal of Human Factors and Ergonomics*, on the expansion of the set of bibliometric indexes it is included in. Inderscience Publishers announced on 7 December 2023 that the *International Journal of Human Factors and Ergonomics* has been indexed by Clarivate Analytics' Emerging Sources Citation Index. Publishing a journal is a joint effort and, therefore, acceptance of the *International Journal of Human Factors and Ergonomics* for indexing in the prestigious and renowned ESCI within Clarivate Analytics' Web of Science is necessarily a shared accomplishment. The acknowledgement list is long and not necessarily exhaustive. Many committed professionals at Inderscience Publishers and associated partners have contributed with their skills and professionalism, along with the hundreds of authors of manuscripts (including those authors of manuscripts that ended up not being published; we need to have a gradient of submissions in a sizeable amount in order to have the opportunity to publish the highest quality ones in a steady flow), and also the reviewers and editorial board members who ensure via a shared process that what does get published is a testament to *IJHFE*'s mission.

This first issue of the current volume (11-2024) with a total of five articles, features three papers submitted as extended and enlarged manuscripts based on conference presentations performed at the 51st Nordic Ergonomics and Human Factors Society Conference, taking place in Uppsala (Sweden) from the 23rd to the 25th of October 2022 with the theme of 'Ergonomics in an unpredictable world – work well'. As a testimony to the unpredictability of the world, it turns out that the accepted papers submitted for this special issue, were one paper short for a special issue, following the publisher's policy. Therefore, the papers are published as part of this regular issue, together with two other regularly submitted papers. This notwithstanding, the efforts of the guest editors merit acknowledgement. The guest editors team was based in Sweden, which included Dr. Liyun Yang (liyun.yang@ki.se), with Karolinska Institute's Unit of Occupational Medicine, Associate Professor Jessica Lindblom (jessica.lindblom@it.uu.se), who is with Uppsala University's Department of Information Technology and Dr. Kristina Eliasson (kristina.eliasson@medsci.uu.se), who is affiliated with the Department of Medical

Sciences at Uppsala University. While a special issue editorial for the articles included in this regular issue was not afforded by the limited number of finally accepted papers, nonetheless I would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the proposed and aforementioned special issue guest editors in the editorial process of the accepted as well as a substantial amount of unsuccessful review processes for other manuscripts submitted to the proposed special issue.

The first three papers in this issue are the accepted papers submitted to the NES2022 special issue project on Human Factors and Ergonomics in an Unpredictable World. The first one is authored by a team of six authors, headed by Dr. Susanna Aromaa, and entirely affiliated with the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd. The paper reports on a study on the industrial metaverse, a novel development in smart manufacturing. Remote operation and maintenance in the process industry, collaboration in human-robot teams and recruiting, training and flexible work roles are the three co-created scenarios assessed based on the topics of user experience, usability, usefulness, user acceptance, ergonomics, safety and ethics. The contribution identifies issues within Human Factors and Ergonomics foci that may emerge in the industrial metaverse and which are connected to challenges springing from work change and human aspects, new business models and sustainability viewpoints.

A three-author team from the IT Department at Uppsala University, headed by Associate Professor Jessica Lindblom authored the second paper in this issue presenting a roadmap for user experience (UX) in future operational train traffic control, with a background on Swedish railway. It comprises seven key aspects for upcoming research in alignment with the need for further investigation into UX at work. The outline comprises domain-specific requirements elicitation, contextual UX factors, underlying UX dimensions, potential value conflicts, UX in digitalization and automation, designing for UX and meaningful technology. The roadmap is targeted for application and implementation in future transdisciplinary rail projects, supporting considering meaningful, technology mediated work practices in train traffic, and offering initial steps on how this can be approached.

A four-author team spanning three Swedish higher education and research institutions (Uppsala, Gothenburg and Jönköping universities) and headed by Dr. Kristina Eliasson, is contributing to this issue with a paper reporting on the process for user-centred development and evaluation of an equipment vest intended for Swedish police officers on active duty. It springs from the multidisciplinary collaboration with the police organisation and ergonomics and biomechanics external researchers. The process involved user needs analysis, market research, initial design, as well as pilot testing and usability evaluation (with the participation of more than a hundred users), ultimately delivering a refined development of the vest. The approach implemented provided a thorough basis for decision-making and yielded a well-accepted product among the users.

This issue of the *IJHFE* also includes a rapid literature review focusing on the assessment of height adjustable workstations prepared by a six-author team affiliated with Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, in Colombia, and headed by Professor Luis A. Saavedra-Robinson. The review focuses on office work and comprises factors such as vascular and metabolic markers, discomfort, surface electromyography, acceptability of standing desk, strength, work-related outcomes, psychological and cognitive conditions, anthropometry, posture assessment, and muscle mass. This contribution points to the need for further experimental studies on sitting and standing in office work to disambiguate some of the less definite findings from the review.

Last, but not least, a five-author team from two Indian institutions (Gayatri Vidya Parishad College and Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Kakinada) headed by Professor K.G. Durga Prasad reports on a case study in user-centred product design of a flex banner cutter with integration of ergonomic considerations and contributions from quality function deployment, TRIZ and the design structure matrix. The paper reports both on the design case study as well as on the novel structured methodology underlying the development process. This methodology is designed to integrate design innovation and user research, with a specific focus on preventing musculoskeletal disorders.