

Meeting Minutes

4 December 2023 – Kuala Lumpur

Document Title:	Meeting Minutes
Meeting:	IEEE GC 2023 TCSN Meeting
TC Chair:	Damla Turgut
TC Vice-Chair:	De-Nian Yang
TC Secretary:	Burak Kantarci
Meeting Recorder:	Cynthia Sikora
File:	TCSN_MeetingMinutes_GC23.pdf

Location/Room	Start (date and time)	Finish (date and time)
Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur/ Grand Residence100	12/4/2023 8:30am GMT+8	12/4/2023 9:30am GMT+8

Document History

Date	Comments
5/31/2024	Document Created
5/31/2024	Initial Version

Purpose of Meeting

Annual meeting of the IEEE Social Networks Technical Committee (TCSN) which took place in the context of IEEE ICC 2023 (virtually). This is the 16th TC meeting for the Technical Committee on Social Networks that has been established and functioning from January 1, 2016.

Agenda

Item	Topic
1.	Welcome and Introduction
2.	Approval of the Agenda
3.	Approval of Meeting Minutes IEEE ICC 2023 (online)
4.	Scope of TCSN
5.	TCSN members and recognitions (activities)
6.	TCSN Status
7.	Newsletter
8.	Journal Activities
9.	Volunteers for the SAC tracks in GCs and ICCs
10.	Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
11.	TCSN Secretary Election

List of Participants

Name	Affiliation
Damla Turgut (Chair)	University of Central Florida
De-Nian Yang (Vice Chair)	Academia Sinica
Burak Kantarci (Secretary)	University of Ottawa
Abderrahim Benslimane	University of Avignon, France
Cyn Sikora	IEEE ComSoc
Eirini Eleni Tsiropoulou	University of New Mexico
Farid Nait-Abdesselam	University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC)
Jelena Masic	Toronto Metropolitan University
Michele Nitti	University of Cagliari
Mingjian Tang	University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
Shui Yu	University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
Vojislav Masic	Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, Canada

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introduction

Damla Turgut (TCSN Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The meeting was held online.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was presented to the attendees and approved.

- Motion:
- Second:
- Voting: All in favor

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes IEEE ICC 2023 (held online)

The committee unanimously approved the minutes of the last TCSN meeting at IEEE ICC 2023. The minutes are also available online at the TCSN website.

4. TCSN Scope

Damla explained the TCSN scope and domains of interest, as well as members' involvement. She explained the nomination procedure for TC members to participate in conferences, endorsements, member elevation, and a nomination for distinguished lecturer appointments.

- TCSN serves as a forum for researchers and technologists to discuss the state-of-the-art, present their contributions, and foster the development of new emerging topical areas in social networks
- TCSN serves as ComSoc's focal point in the areas of social network, supporting IEEE ComSoc's activities (e.g., ComSoc's journals, magazines, conferences, IEEE standard

- activities, and the recognition and proposal of candidates) and organizing symposia, workshops, sessions and tutorials at ComSoc conferences
- Nominating suitable candidates for ComSoc and IEEE awards, proposing distinguished lecturer candidates, endorsing deserving candidates for the election to IEEE Senior Member and Fellow grade
 - TCSN scope
 - Formation and evolution of human social networks
 - Information propagation and dissemination in human social networks
 - Small world phenomenon and its implication in telecommunication networks
 - Convergence of telecommunication networks and human social networks
 - Social-aware network solutions in wireless and wireline communications systems
 - Cross-layer design for social networks and the underlying communications platforms
 - AI for communications and networking
 - Optimization and protocol design for mobile social networks
 - Network graph modeling, measurements, simulations, and experiments
 - Analysis of dynamics and trends in the evolutions of social networks
 - Analysis and control of belief, influence, and rumor propagations in social environments
 - Analysis of social media, trust, and reputation
 - Privacy and security in social network
 - Social signal processing
 - Data mining, machine learning, information retrieval, and artificial intelligence in social contexts
 - Infrastructure, platform, protocol design, and optimization for mobile social clouds and social internet-of-things
 - Innovative applications in social networks and services for mobile internet, multimedia networks, mobile e-commerce, and cyber-physical systems
 - Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research on social networks
 - New applications and services

5. TCSN Members and Recognitions

Damla explained the definition of TC membership according to TCSN P&Ps:

- Any ComSoc member who has been active in the TC activities for the past three years, can be a member of the TCSN. It is also necessary to subscribe to the TCSN mailing list.
- A TC member shall attend (physically present or by teleconference) three or more of the prior six regularly scheduled TC meetings for the past three years, cast informed votes on TC business, and be encouraged to assist in the conduct of TC business.
- Individuals who are not ComSoc members are also welcome to participate in TC activities; however, they cannot be named TC members but collaborators.

Damla has presented the invited talks, keynotes, and panels that TCSN members have been involved in, as well as the awards that TCSN members have received. These include:

- **Prof. Damla Turgut**, University of Central Florida
 - IEEE Comsoc Distinguished Lecturer, 2022-2023

- IEEE WIE Distinguished Lecturers Program, 2023
- Invited Talk on “Bringing privacy into the picture: new optimization goals for ML/AI in smart environments,” Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Rome, Italy, June 1, 2023
- Invited talk at “eli2 Speaker Series”, University of Central Florida, Oct. 6, 2023
- Alumni Panelist at “50th Year Celebrations of CSE Dept.” at UT-Arlington, Oct. 14, 2023
- IEEE ComSoC Distinguished Lecture on “Bringing privacy into the picture: new optimization goals for ML/AI in smart environments,” hosted by IEEE Washington Chapter, University of District of Columbia, Sept. 18, 2023
- IEEE ComSoC Distinguished Lecture on “Bringing privacy into the picture: new optimization goals for ML/AI in smart environments,” hosted by IEEE Baltimore Chapter, University of Maryland at Baltimore County, Sept. 19, 2023
- CRA Congressional Day Visit, One of the two faculty representatives from the state of Florida, Washington, DC, Sept. 20, 2023
- IEEE ComSoC Distinguished Lecture on “Machine learning and privacy in eHealth applications,” hosted by University of Politecnico of Torino, Oct. 23, 2023
- Keynote Address on “Machine learning and privacy in eHealth applications,” eHealth TC PhD School, Genova, Italy, Oct. 25, 2023
- Invited Talk on “Bringing privacy into the picture: new optimization goals for ML/AI in smart environments,” Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, Nov. 1, 2023
- Invited talk, on “Privacy in smart healthcare,” The 26th International Symposium on Wireless Personal Multimedia Communications (WPMC’23), Tampa FL, Nov. 22, 2023
- TPC Co-Chair, IEEE SmartGridComm 2024
- One of the co-organizers of N2Women and WICE Workshop at Globecom 2023
- **Dr. Neeli Prasad**, SmartAvatar B.V./TrustedMobi “VehicleAvatar Inc.”
 - Panelist at IEEE WIE Panel discussion, IEEE Future Networks World Forum 2023
 - Invited talk, “Bringing Technology to Improve Quality of Life (QoL),” N2Women Event: Meeting and Broadening Participation, IEEE WoWMoM 2023
- **Prof. Eirini Eleni Tsiropoulou**, Univ. of New Mexico
 - Keynote speaker, “Harnessing Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces to Elevate Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Solutions: An Approach Grounded in Artificial Intelligence”, IEEE CCCI 2023
 - Distinguished Member of the IEEE INFOCOM 2023 Technical Program Committee
- **Prof. Burak Kantarci**, University of Ottawa
 - IEEE Comsoc Distinguished Lecturer, 2023-2024
 - Best Paper Award, IEEE ICC 2023
 - Panelist at AI/ML-enabled connected and Autonomous Vehicles in the Era of 6G sponsored by Wireless World Research Forum, IEEE ANTS 2023

6. TCSN Status

Damla presented the status of the TC. The mailing list currently has 1209 subscribers. The website is active and up to date. Email address for interaction with members was provided along with subscription information. TCSN is also active in social media. Links to Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook were also provided.

7. Newsletter

The newsletter is published twice a year in ICC and Globecom. 12 Issues have been published so far. De-Nian, Damla, and Burak were the editors of issue 10; Claudio Marche was the editor of issues 11 and 12. Contents of the latest newsletter were presented to the attendees and feedback was asked.

8. Journal Activities

TCSN has been involved in organizing several special issues. These include:

- IEEE Transactions on Network and Service Management
 - Networks, Systems and Services Operations and Management through Intelligence
 - ✓ Topic of interest: **Social** and communication networks analysis
 - ✓ Guest editors: Nur Zincir-Heywood (Lead), Alberto Leon-Garcia, Robert Birke, Hanan Lutfiyya, Elias Bou-Harb, Deepak Puthal, Hossam Hassanein, Abdallah Shami, Takeru Inoue, Natalia Stakhanova, Neeraj Kumar
 - ✓ Submission Deadline: 20 June 2023
 - ✓ Publication Date: March 2024
- IEEE Transactions on Network Science and Engineering
 - Next-generation Traffic Measurement with Network-wide Perspective and Artificial Intelligence
 - ✓ Topic of interest: Network-wide and/or AI-powered traffic measurement for online **social** networks
 - ✓ Guest editors: He Huang (Lead), Haipeng Dai, Shigang Chen, Amirhosein Taherkordi, Ran Ben Basat, Jun (Jim) Xu
 - ✓ Submission Deadline: 15 January 2023
 - ✓ Revised Manuscripts Due: 1 June 2023
 - ✓ Publication Date: First Quarter 2024
- IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications
 - Human-Centric Communication and Networking for **Metaverse** over 5G and Beyond Networks
 - ✓ Topic of interest: Human-attention-aware content delivery in **metaverse**; crowdsensing and analytics of user behavior data in **metaverse**
 - ✓ Guest editors: Peng Li (Lead), Mehrdad Dianati, Song Guo, Nirwan Ansari, Lin Cai
 - ✓ Submission Deadline: 15 March 2023
 - ✓ Publication Date: First Quarter 2024

9. Volunteers for the SAC tracks in GCs and ICCs and other activities

Damla presented the volunteers of the TC for current and future conferences. These include:

- ICC 2023 Rome:
 - Rep: De-Nian Yang

- GC 2023 Kuala Lumpur:
 - Rep: Neeraj Kumar
- ICC 2024 Denver:
 - Rep: Eirini Eleni Tsiropoulo
- GC 2024 Cape Town, South Africa:
 - Rep: Anna Maria Vegni
- ICC 2025 Montreal, Canada:
 - Rep: Valeria Loscri
- GC 2025 Taipei, Taiwan:
 - Rep: De-Nian Yang
- ICC 2026, Glasgow, Scotland
 - Rep: TBD
- GC 2026, Macau, China
 - Rep: TBD

Active TC members are sought for the SN track of the SAC symposium in ICC/Globecom. Damla has explained the goals and responsibilities of track chairs in future conferences: Update topics in CFP. Advertise the CFP on social media. Advertise the CFP to the authors of the previous symposiums. Advertise the CFP to the authors of previous ICCs and GCs. Regional mailing lists. Update TPC members in TCSN (we need to incentivize new people)

TCSN volunteers were also introduced. Current voluntary positions are as follows:

- Web: De-Nian Yang (Academia Sinica)
- Newsletters: Claudio Marche [Twice a year at ICC and Globecom]
- Membership development: Eirini Eleni Tsiropoulou (University of New Mexico, USA) & Burak Kantarci (University of Ottawa, Canada)
- Awards Committee: TCSN will keep working on this. Diversity is a key objective when forming and running the awards committee.
- Industry liaison: Charalampos Patrikakis (University of West Attica, Greece)
- Liaison to ComSoc Standardization Board: Charalampos Patrikakis (University of West Attica, Greece)
 - Prof. Vincent Chan mentioned that IEEE is collaborating with industry in Silicon Valley to discuss which topics should be standardized and how to do it.
- Liaisons to TSCBD: Shui Yu (University of Sydney)
- Marketing: Neeli Prasad (Trusted Mobi, "VehicleAvatar Inc", USA) and De-Nian Yang (Academia Sinica)

10. Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

TCSN calls for Special Interest Groups. Interested members should contact TCSN officers with a scope, proposed activities, and a liaison to other TCs. TCSN will support SIG activities by technically co-sponsoring workshops and conferences, promoting seminars and talks, and organizing special issues in journals.

There is a call for interest in liaison with other TCs. Interested members are encouraged to contact TCSN officers. The objective is to promote joint activities of interest, coordinate initiatives, and organize special issues in journals.

Two SIGs have been presented. **SlOA SIG: Social Internet of Anything; ToSN SIG: Special Interest Group on TRUSTWORTHINESS ON SOCIAL NETWORKS**

SloA SIG Officers include Anna Maria Vegni (Chair), Valeria Loscri (Co-Chair), and Abderrahim Benslimane (Senior Advisor).

The Scope of SloA SIG is as follows: The Social Internet of Anything Special Interest Group (SloA SIG) of the IEEE Technical on Social Networks (SN) promotes research and development in the emerging area of social networking applied to communication networks, ranging from traditional IoT networks, including Internet of Vehicles, Internet of Flying devices, Internet of Medical devices, till Internet of People, where social features are relevant and exploitable for communication and networking purposes. Due to this huge application field, not limited to IoT, and since social aspects can find applicability in different fields, we extend the definition of Social IoT to Social Internet of Anythings. In this context, we are aware that new threats can emerge and make the SloA more vulnerable to cyber-attacks. The SloA will focus on research activities on all these aspects. SloA SIG aims to provide a platform for researchers and practitioners from academia and industry to discuss relevant topics and exchange views on the important issues of SloA provisioning, social networking, and connectivity, social community detection and prediction, social ties and hub nodes for communication networks, cross-layer design, and interoperability between communication networks and social networks. It will also assist the TCSN by organizing and supporting ComSoc-sponsored conferences and workshops, special issues, and feature topics of relevant journals.

Since the creation of the SloA SIG, the Chairs have advanced in the definition of a logo that better depicts the main topics covered by the SIG. A Logo Creation Contest initiative has been suggested in order to involve all the interested members of TCSN, especially students and post-docs, to send in their logo design idea.

In the framework of SloA SIG, we submitted **SocMeta project** which has been selected for funding by IEEE ComSoc under the TC Innovation Project initiative.

- SocMeta is related to how the Metaverse will revolutionize the existing social networking features, applied to different contexts, from Social Internet of Things to Vehicular Social Networks, as well Online Social Networks.
- **Student Competition**: we seek for innovative proposals from IEEE ComSoc students, addressing the main topics of SocMeta.
 - **Proposal submission deadline: Dec. 5, 2023 (To: Anna Maria Vegni, Valeria Loscri and Abderrahim Benslimane, see call)**
 - **Notification date: Dec. 19, 2023**
- We are organizing the **First Workshop on Social Networking in Metaverse** that will be held on December 22, 2023 at Roma Tre University (Italy).
 - **Two keynote speakers**
 - **Dr. Tania Lorido-Botran (Roblox, USA)**: Metaverse, Metastability and Beyond
 - **Prof. Silvia Giordano (SUSPI, Switzerland)**: Metaverse, Online Social Media and Networks
 - **Attendees must register to the workshop by December 15, 2023:**
<https://forms.gle/jZoGnyCemiD6s2M46>

Invited seminars of SloA SIG are expected to be delivered every two months by selected researchers in the field of social networking and communications.

- The 1st Invited Seminar was delivered by Prof. Iera, on February 25, 2022.
- The 2nd Invited Seminar was delivered by Prof. Morabito, on April 29, 2022. (Registration link: <https://forms.gle/snGNueqy39r6mNYx7>)
- The 3rd Invited Seminar will be delivered by Prof. Valencia, on October 28, 2022. (Registration link: <https://forms.gle/tuUjKF9xmMuPWnMA6>)
- The 4th Invited Seminar will be delivered by Prof. Nitti, on February 17, 2023. (Registration link: <https://forms.gle/SW6scC3cBvgn6bAQ6>)

ToSN SIG Officers include Charalampos Z. Patrikakis (Chair), Agata Gurzawska (Co-chair), and Sorin Adam Matei (Senior Advisor).

The Scope of ToSN SIG is as follows: The Trustworthiness on Social Networks interest group will foster trust-focused research on social networks. It will identify the trust vulnerabilities and opportunities in existing and future social networking technologies. It will also examine the design and usage factors that influence societal perceptions of trustworthiness of social networking platforms and of their business models. Particular attention will be paid to regulation, including both specific measures to foster trustworthiness and guardrails to prevent unjustified controls of social media in the name of trustworthiness.

The group will propose and evaluate tools and methods for enhancing trust in social networks. Finally, it will expand on the results of research projects such as HORIZON 2020 EUNOMIA, HORIZON EUROPE project VERITY and Trust First.

11. TCSN Secretary Election

The term as Chair of Prof. Damla Turgut will conclude in 2023. According to the P&Ps of COMSOC, De-Nian Yang and Burak Kantarci will be elevated to Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

Therefore, an election for the secretary position was held on **Nov. 22-29, 2023**. As per the P&Ps, the candidates must be **COMSOC members** and **active members of TCSN** (i.e. attendees of **at least 3** TCSN meetings in the **past 3 years** with realistic contributions to TCSN activities).

A Nomination and Election Subcommittee (N&E) is formed as follows to verify the active status and willingness to serve for the candidates for the election.

- Neeli Prasad (Chair) (SmartAvatars, Netherlands)
- Damla Turgut (University of Central Florida, USA)
- De-Nian Yang (Academia Sinica, Taiwan)

Candidates of TCSN Secretary Election: Abderrahim Benslimane ([pdf](#)) and Claudio Marche ([pdf](#))

Criterion of Active Members in P&P: to become an active member, a TC member shall attend (physically present or by teleconference) **three or more of the prior six** regular scheduled TC meetings for the **past three years**, cast informed votes on TC business, and be encouraged to assist in the conduct of TC business.

Active Member List: <https://sn.committees.comsoc.org/policies-procedures/tc-active-member/>

TC meeting minutes with participant information (<https://sn.committees.comsoc.org/meetings-and-minutes/>)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30am GMT+8.