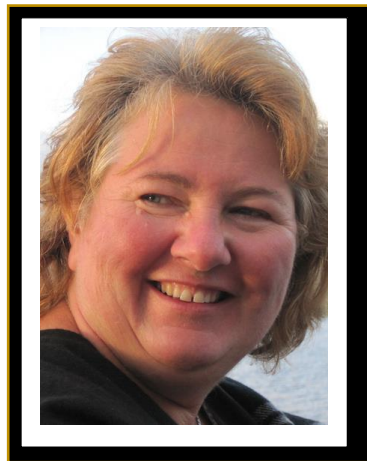


Graph Drawings: As Created By Users (Or 'Doing the Future Work')

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Abstract

Much effort has been spent on designing algorithms for the automatic layout of graphs. Typically, the worth of these algorithms has been determined by their computational efficiency and by the extent to which the graph drawings they produce conform to pre-defined "aesthetics" (for example, minimizing the number of edge crosses and edge bends, or maximizing symmetry). Prior experimental work has focused on the extent to which the layout of a graph drawing assists with the comprehension of the embodied relational information. This seminar presents an alternate

(*Abstract cont.*) approach to determining the relative worth of graph layout aesthetics, based on how users create their own graph drawings. The seminar will present the results of both the published research experiments, as well as two follow-up studies.

Biography

Dr. Helen Purchase is Senior Lecturer in the School of Computing Science at the University of Glasgow. She has worked in the area of empirical studies of graph layout for several years, and also has research interests in visual aesthetics, task-based empirical design, collaborative learning in higher education, and sketch tools for design. She has recently written a book on Empirical methods for HCI research, and is currently on sabbatical at the University of Arizona.

Hosted by: Ross Maciejewski