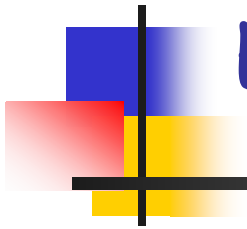
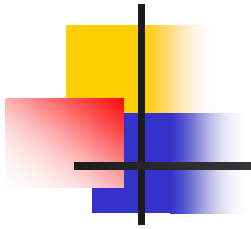


# The Shadow Programme Committee
# Eurosys 2013, Cambridge, 11.1.2013

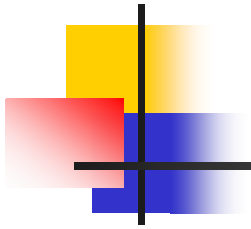
Jon Crowcroft,

http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~jac22



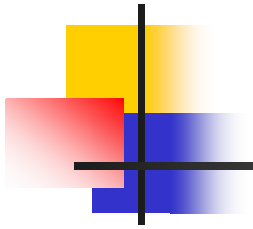
# What Are PCs for?

- What are conferences for?
  - The dissemination of new research knowledge
  - The sustaining of a research community
  - The stimulation of new lines of work
- PCs are the gatekeepers
  - Decide on submissions to accept that meet those goals
  - Act as proxy for community to give feedback to authors



# What are Shadow PCs for?

- PhD students normally only see accepted conference & journal papers
  - Shadow PC opportunity to see range of work
  - Also learn the ropes/processes
    - Reviewing / Reading
    - Workload management
  - Ease in to possible future faculty roles



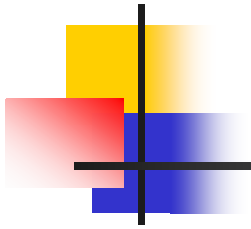
# Main task is reviewing

- How to read a paper, Keshav

http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=1273458

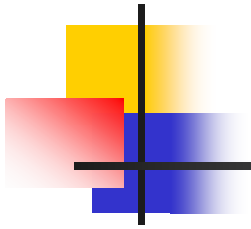
- See also, How to write a paper (Peyton-Jones):

http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/simonpj/Papers/giving-a-talk/giving-a-talk.htm



# And PC Meeting

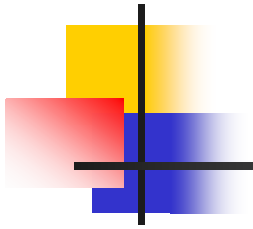
- A PC is going to have a target number of papers (or at least an upper bound☺)
  - So have to rank papers, but
- Different people have different tastes for (e.g.)
  - Correctness versus novelty
  - Depth versus Breadth
  - Theory v. practice
- So when we flatten our multi-dimensional mindmap of a set of papers into a 1D rank,
  - We're not going to all be doing the same thing…
- If a paper has a champion, and is not wrong…
- If a paper generates a LOT of discussion, and has no adamant gainsayer….



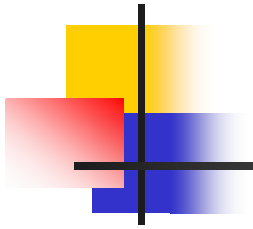
# Ethics

- You're seeing work that isn't published is a privilege
  - When we reject work, we must "forget it"
- In a blind review process, try NOT to guess the authors
  - Authors who deliberately de-blind their work are misbehaving (we have some here which we should strictly remove)
- Some reviewers de-blind/sign their reviews (i.e. disagree with double blind process)
- This is ethically ok, but you should tell rest of PC or at least PC chairs

# Difference between shadow and real PC process

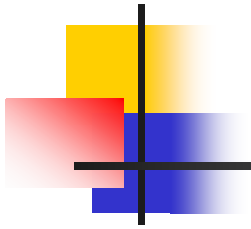


- We're missing quite a few submissions (the authors opted in to their papers being forwarded from real to shadow)
  - We couldn't have a rebuttal process
  - We're not generating a real programme, so some poor young faculty or PhD student's career is not in our hands…but
  - We have real PC members here so behave like we do have this great power and responsibility



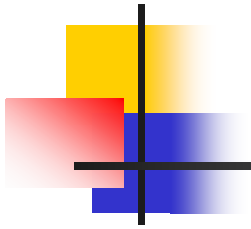
# More differences

- Many PCs insist on as close to 100% of PC members attending f2f as possible
- Sometimes this doesn't work (illness, visa, whatever good reason – or just cost of travel, volcanoes etc)
- So one has to resort to confcalls to missing members
  - this is *extremely* unsatisfactory imho
- Alternative (and a good one) is to have NO f2f meeting -
  - its greener,
  - and levels everyone down onto a skype session
  - and removes dominating personality effects a lot from any discussion



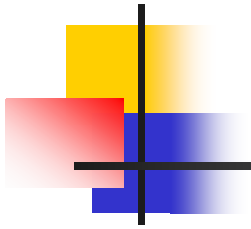
# Are all papers equal?

- It is quite common to hold the PC chairs (and sometimes PC members) to a higher quality acceptance level than other authors submissions
- Handling PC member submissions, and especially chair papers requires extra level of care about conflicts and revelation
- The technology for this isn't ideal…
- If it is ok in the shadow PC, we won't do much about conflicts (unless you wish)



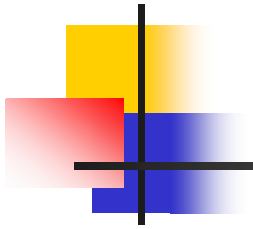
# Our target

- Lets see if we can find 25 papers we could accept?
- N.b. a word on self-calibration of expertise
  - It is extremely common to think one is more expert in topics one isn't, and less expert in topics one is an expert in.
  - This means we should take self-assessment o f expertise with a pinch of salt
  - We'll try to look at the review statistics at the end of the meeting, but it is interesting to see the range of mean & variance on peoples paper scores…
  - Some PCs normalise scores, and some only rank.



# Hotcrp, rank and tags

- Is the worst conference management s/w except for all the rest.
- We'll do two passes over papers
  - We'll select all papers tagged #discuss
  - And do a bottom up (worst first) pass.
  - I'd like the highest scoring reviewer in the room to start, then go to lowest
  - The goal is to see if we can tag any papers #accept
- The second pass will be top down, with same goal.
- When we wrap up, I want people to tell me if they want their reviews forwarded to the real PC members
  - (some of whom are ok with looking at these to give you feedback on your reviewing!)



# Any questions?

- Ok so lets begin…