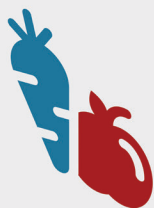# IX

New Ways of Thinking About Data Governance

What Human-Horse Interactions May Teach Us About Effective Human-AI Interactions

The Challenges of Synthetic Users in UX Research
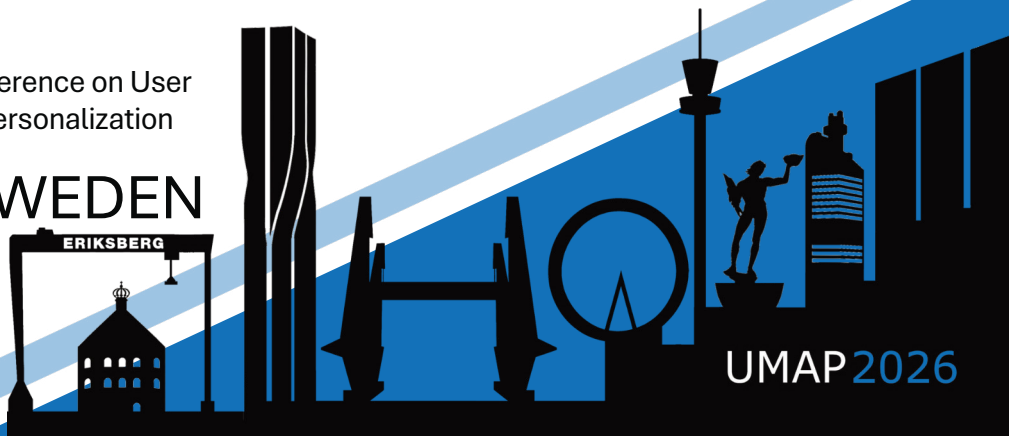
Rethinking HCI Education for the Era of AI

Design as Civic Preparation

34th ACM International Conference on User Modeling, Adaptation and Personalization

GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN
JUNE 8 – 11, 2026

ERIKSBERG

UMAP 2026

IMPORTANT DATES
Long/short papers: Jan 22 (Abstracts), Jan 29 (Papers), 2026
Workshop/tutorial proposals: Jan 22, 2026
Doctoral consortium papers: Mar 6, 2026
Industry papers: Mar 6, 2026
LBR and demos: Mar 30, 2026

UMAP is the premier venue for research and applications of adaptive and personalized interactive systems.

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The UMAP community brings together academia and industry, research and practice, and diverse fields such as HCI, AI, and behavioral science to advance adaptive interactive systems and deepen our understanding of human–AI interaction.

Images: Bengt Nyman, Pasi Mammela

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Today's large language models excel at pattern recall yet falter on long-range planning, self-critique, context loss, and the tendency of maximum-likelihood training to reward popularity over quality. MACI offers a promising route to AGI by orchestrating specialized LLM agents through explicit protocols rather than enlarging a single model.

Several modules remedy complementary weaknesses: adversarial-collaborative debate surfaces hidden assumptions; critical-reading rubrics filter incoherent arguments; information-theoretic signals steer dialogue quantitatively; transactional memory enables reliable long-horizon execution; and a dual-agent ethical court adjudicates outputs. Crucially, MACI also modulates linguistic behavior, tuning each agent's contentiousness and emotional tone, so the collective explores ideas from contrasting, affect-aware perspectives before converging.

Across healthcare diagnosis, investment support, scheduling, supply-chain management, and news-bias mitigation, MACI ensembles deliver significant improvements in reasoning depth, planning horizon, and reliability compared with similar-sized single models. By uniting structured debate, information-theoretic coordination, persistent memory, affect-aware discourse, and deliberative ethics, MACI demonstrates that rigorously validated multi-agent collaboration provides a practical, interpretable path toward robust general intelligence.

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Relational governance offers an opportunity for HCI researchers interested in the more traditional design-oriented aspects of the field to prototype and develop platforms that treat this form of governance as a priority.

— P. 24

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