

Preface

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In October 2011 the HFES Europe Chapter annual conference took place in Leeds, England. Papers included in this book were presented at that three day meeting. As is its tradition, the conference roamed around multiple aspects of human factors in one single set of plenary sessions, enabling interaction among researchers and PhD students using a variety of investigative techniques to examine different domains. It is this opportunity for interaction that gives the conference series its unique flavour. Conference papers ranged from the emotional impact of music on driving to the use of PDAs to collect battlefield information. Once again the rapid-fire talking poster session was a highlight.

On the first day of the conference, Mr Ian Duhig, a Leeds-based poet was commissioned by the Europe Chapter to read his poem “The Blind Ballad of Jack Metcalf” to the conference delegates. Ian is a Leeds University Graduate and has written six books of poetry, won the Forward Best Poem Prize once, the National Poetry Competition twice, and has been shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize three times. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. His poem about John Metcalf (1717–1810), also known as Blind Jack of Knaresborough or Blind Jack Metcalf, is based on the story of a professional road builder from the North of England. Blind from the age of six, due to a smallpox infection, John Metcalf started life as a fiddler, but became a major road builder and civil engineer, building one of the main roads which currently goes from Knaresborough through to the centre of Leeds. The poem is the opening contribution of this book.

All papers in this book are covered by the broad title of the book “Human Factors of Systems and Technology”. Presentations are further grouped into the following chapters: Automation / Situation Awareness, Transportation (Aviation, Surface Transportation and Vulnerable Road Users), Skills and remote control, and Modelling.

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