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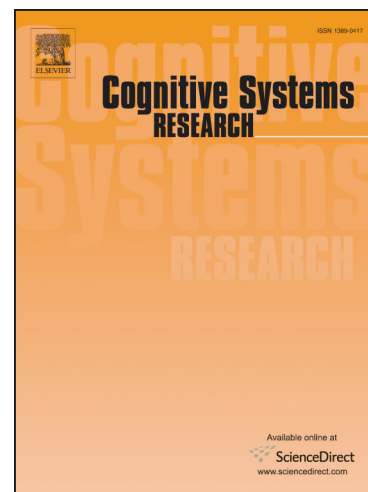
Situated Problem Solving in Kashmiri Carpet Weaving Practice

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Abstract:

This paper discusses situated problem solving accomplished in the three constituent domains of Kashmiri carpet weaving practice viz. designing, coding and weaving. While, the designers' problem relates to carving spatial regions on graph-sheets, the coders' problem relates to cognitively demarcating relevant coding area in those graphs while generating code. Likewise, the weavers' problem lies in demarcating weaving-territory on the loom, while the manufacturers' problem relates to determining a particular spatial area for quality assessment. The paper discusses how the actors create *fixed*, *transient* and *negotiable boundaries* on the graph, the loom and the carpet to solve this problem of area determination and demarcation.

Section-1 introduces this practice, its task domains and the problem of area determination and demarcation, Section-2 discusses the methodology, Section-3 discusses in detail the problem of area-determination in each task domain and the problem solving strategies employed by the actors using material available in their task-environments itself. In addition, the problem and resolution of area determination as encountered by the manufacturers is discussed. The paper concludes with a discussion on findings of this study with larger findings in cognitive science and accentuates the role played by *situated* and *distributed cognition* in unearthing the findings reported in this paper.

Keywords: problem solving, situated and distributed cognition, Kashmiri carpets, talim, graphs, boundary creation

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