



EurAI Bulletin #1, 2019

Call for Nominations: EurAI Artificial Intelligence Dissertation Award 2018

Nominations are invited for the 2018 Artificial Intelligence Dissertation Award sponsored by EurAI, the European Association of Artificial Intelligence. Please take a moment to nominate your students, or to recommend to your colleagues to nominate their students. This Award includes a certificate signed by the EurAI President and 1500 Euros (which includes the travel grant for the Award ceremony). Nominations are due by May 24, 2019 by submitting a single PDF file as described below listing both the NOMINATED candidate and the NOMINATOR as the AUTHORS through EasyChair:

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=euraiphaward2018>

Eligible doctoral dissertations are those defended after December 1, 2017 in the general area of Artificial Intelligence. The dissertation must have been defended at a European university and the author must be a personal member of a EurAI member society. In case a thesis is nominated for another national or international award before or during its review for the EurAI dissertation award, the author is requested to inform the EurAI dissertation award committee about this fact.

To be considered, a dissertation must be nominated by the thesis supervisor, who must submit the following items as a SINGLE PDF file in the order:

- Nomination cover-page that includes: the name, affiliation, and contact details of the nominator; the date of the defense of the dissertation; and the names of the jury/examiners involved in its defense;
- Nomination letters, either digitally signed or scanned original, from two referees supporting the submission and stating their assessment of why the thesis should win the award.
- If the thesis was not written in English the nomination must include an English paper describing the core ideas of the thesis that has been submitted for publication in an international journal or a prestigious conference.
- The full nominated dissertation. The selection will be based on the originality, impact, and written quality of the work. Work that has been submitted to and/or accepted at workshops, conferences, or journals will be considered more favourably.

Work that is primarily attributed to the student's own initiative will also be considered more favourably. Finally, the quality of the written document will be considered.

Please address any queries to Michela Milano – michela.milano@unibo.it

The outcome will be announced by the end of June.

The Award will be presented during IJCAI2019.

Preliminary Call for Papers: ECAI 2020

24th European Conference on Artificial Intelligence (ECAI 2020)

Santiago de Compostela, June 8-12 2020

<http://www.ecai2020.eu>

The biennial European Conference on Artificial Intelligence (ECAI) is Europe's premier venue for presenting scientific results in AI. Under the general theme 'Paving the way towards Human-Centric AI', the 24th edition of ECAI will be held in Santiago de Compostela, a UNESCO's World Heritage City which is the destination of unique Routes that cross all Europe since the Middle Ages. The conference dates are 10-12 June 2020, with the workshops taking place on 8-9 June. Save these dates!

The Program Committee of the 24th European Conference on Artificial Intelligence (ECAI 2020) invites the submission of papers for the technical programme of the Conference. High-quality original submissions are welcome from research results and applications of all areas of AI. The following list of topics is indicative; other topics are welcome.

- Agent-based and Multi-agent Systems
- Computational Intelligence
- Computer Vision
- Constraints and Satisfiability
- Ethical, Legal, Social Issues
- Human Aspects in AI
- Knowledge Representation and Reasoning
- Machine Learning
- Natural Language Processing
- Neural Information Processing Systems
- Planning and Scheduling
- Uncertainty in AI
- Robotics and Autonomous Systems
- Safe, Explainable, and Trustworthy AI
- Semantic Technologies
- Search & Game Playing
- Multidisciplinary Topics

Important Dates

- Paper submission: November 15, 2019
- Notification of acceptance/rejection: January 15, 2020

Workshops, Tutorials, and Other Events

Separate calls will be issued for workshop and tutorial proposals, as well as for contributions to:

- PAIS 2020, the Prestigious Applications of Intelligent Systems conference
- STAIRS 2020, the Starting AI Researcher Symposium.

In addition, other AI-related events will be announced, specially addressing the role of AI in Europe (and vice-versa) with special focus on the Conference general theme.

Organisation

The Conference is hosted by the European Association for Artificial Intelligence (EurAI) and the Spanish AI Society (AEPIA). ECAI 2020 is organized by the Intelligent Systems Group (GSI) and the Research Centre in Intelligent Technologies (CiTIUS), University of Santiago de Compostela.

Synergies with Other Conferences

ECAI 2020 is coordinating with AAMAS 2020 and ICAPS 2020 to exploit synergies. Details will be announced later.

Contacts and Updates

Updates will be regularly published at the Conference Website:

<http://www.ecai2020.eu>

Follow us in Twitter @ECAI2020

Report from the IJCAI-ECAI 2018

IJCAI-ECAI 2018 took place in Stockholm, July 13th through 19th. This was the first time that ECAI has been held jointly with IJCAI. Also for the first time, IJCAI and ECAI were colocated with other major conferences, including ICML-18 and AAMAS-18, along with several other (smaller) conferences. The workshops and tutorials were common to the three large conferences, and we had a record number of 30 tutorials and 66 workshops!

This edition of IJCAI and ECAI received the highest number of submissions to the regular track (3470) of any previous IJCAI or ECAI. Out of these submissions, 709 were accepted for publication (approximately 20% of these papers were from Europe).

In addition to the regular track, there was a special track on the Evolution of the Contours of AI, a track where the best papers from 'sister AI conferences' were presented, a journal track, a survey track (for the first time), a demo track, a robotics showcase, a video competition, an industry program, and a doctoral consortium.

We had eight invited speakers, two of whom were joint with ICML and AAMAS, and four of these speakers were from Europe. We also had 24 talks by early career researchers (9 of whom were from Europe). We had two panel discussions, one on the future of AI in Europe, and one on an AI strategy for Europe.

The number of attendees was considerably higher than at previous editions of IJCAI and ECAI.

As far as research topics, there was a highly significant increase of submissions and accepted papers in machine learning and its applications to computer vision, natural language processing, and web science. However, the number of submissions also increased for all other fields, such as knowledge representation and reasoning, multi-agent systems, planning and scheduling, constraints and satisfiability, search and game playing, human-computer interaction, uncertainty in AI, and robotics.

The next joint IJCAI-ECAI conference will be held in 2022 in Bologna, while the next IJCAI will be held in 2019 in Macao and the next ECAI in Santiago de Compostela in 2020.

Advanced Course on AI 2019

The EurAI's (www.eurai.org) 17th Advanced Course on AI (ACAI) will take place at Chania (Crete, Greece) this coming July. It will also constitute the 2019 Hellenic Artificial Intelligence Summer School (HAISS), sponsored by [EETN, the Hellenic AI Society](#). This year, the School will also include a *special track on Cognitive Systems*,

organised by the Open University of Cyprus and the University of Cyprus, and sponsored by the Artificial Intelligence journal ([AIJ](#)).

ACAI is typically organised on a bi-annual basis.

The theme of ACAI-2019 is “**AI for Multi-Agent Worlds**”.

Dates: July 1 - July 5, 2019.

Venue: Kounoupidiana Campus, Technical University of Crete, Chania, Greece

Website: <http://acai2019.tuc.gr>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/acai2019

The provisional ACAI-2019 tutors and talks program can be found here:

http://www.intelligence.tuc.gr/acai2019?page_id=489

Scholarships will be provided by EurAI and the Hellenic AI Society (EETN). In particular, EurAI will provide *approximately* 28 student grants, ranging from 200 to 400 euros; these student grants will be offered by EurAI, and will be paid to the successful applicants after the School. The grants will be allocated based on anticipated travel costs, and academic merit.

ACAI provides a wide range of state-of-the-art courses given by some of the most prominent researchers in the area. A typical course is broad enough to provide a general introduction to the chosen topic, whilst also students can learn the most relevant contributions in depth. This year, the School offers a well-balanced tutorial curriculum, which covers many important AI topics with application in multi-agent worlds, such as AI Ethics, Machine Learning/Deep Learning, Logic, Robotics, Game Theory, AI for Digital Games, and more.

ACAI-2019 is co-organized by:

- The European Association for Artificial Intelligence (EurAI) - www.eurai.org
- The Greek AI Society (EETN) - www.eetn.gr
- The Technical University of Crete (TUC) www.tuc.gr / School of Electrical and Computer Engineering - www.ece.tuc.gr

Report on ACAI 2018

The 2018 edition of the Advanced Course on AI (ACAI) was held in Ferrara, Italy on August 27th - 31st 2018.

The theme of the 2018 ACAI School was Statistical Relational Artificial Intelligence (StarAI), an emerging area that combines logical (or relational) AI and probabilistic (or statistical) AI.

The school had a large and diverse audience: there was a total of 94 participants from 4 continents, both from academia and industry.

The school included courses on foundations of relational and statistical AI together with advanced courses on the new StarAI approaches and applications. Hands-on classes were also organized in which the students could try the main StarAI techniques.

The list of lectures is:

- Luc De Raedt: Probabilistic Programming
- Paolo Frasconi: Kernels and deep networks for structured data
- Mathias Niepert and Alberto García Durán: Neural Link Prediction for Multi-Modal Knowledge Graphs
- Sebastian Riedel and Pasquale Minervini: Differentiable Program Interpreters
- Artur d'Avila Garcez: Neural-symbolic learning
- Marco Lippi: Applications of Statistical Relational Artificial Intelligence
- Sriraam Natarajan: Statistical Relational Learning and Applications
- Kristian Kersting: Lifted Statistical Machine Learning
- Fabrizio Riguzzi: Probabilistic Inductive Logic Programming
- Vaishak Belle: Effective Probabilistic Logical Reasoning and Learning in Continuous Domains
-

The recording of all the lectures are available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJPXEH0boeNDWTNwWTWnVffXi5XwAj1mb>

The slides in pdf of all the lectures can be downloaded from the school website

<http://acai2018.unife.it>

ACAI 2018 was part of the Relational Artificial Intelligence Days 2018 (RAID 2018, <http://raid2018.unife.it>), which included, besides ACAI 2018:

PLP 2018: 5th Workshop on Probabilistic Logic Programming, September 1st 2018, <http://stoics.org.uk/plp/plp2018>

ILP 2018: 28th International Conference on Inductive Logic Programming, September 2nd - 4th 2018, <http://ilp2018.unife.it>

The ACAI Organizers were

- Kristian Kersting, TU Darmstadt, Germany
- Marco Lippi, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy
- Sriraam Natarajan, University of Texas at Dallas, USA
- Fabrizio Riguzzi, University of Ferrara, Italy

Magazines & Journals

AI Magazine Vol 40 Number 1

<https://www.aaai.org/ojs/index.php/aimagazine/issue/view/225>

AI Communications - Volume 32, Issue 1:

<https://content.iospress.com/journals/ai-communications/32/1>

Contact Information

Editor: Barry O'Sullivan, University College Cork, b.osullivan@cs.ucc.ie

For advertising AI-related conferences, schools and journal issues, please contact the editor.