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Linköping, Sweden, April 22-24, 1996
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Preface

The sixth *European Symposium on Programming* (ESOP) was held April 22 – 26, 1996, in Linköping, Sweden. ESOP is now ten years old: the first symposium was held in Saarbrücken and since then it has been held biannually in Nancy, Copenhagen, Rennes, and Edinburgh. Continuing the tradition, ESOP co-located with the *Colloquium on Trees in Algebra and Programming* (CAAP) and, as in Edinburgh, it also co-located with the *International Conference on Compiler Construction* (CC).

ESOP is devoted to fundamental issues in the specification, analysis, and implementation of programming languages and systems. The emphasis is on research which bridges the gap between theory and practice: for example, practical studies based on theoretical developments and theoretical developments with a clearly identified potential for practical application. The scope of the symposium includes:

- software specification and verification (including algebraic techniques and model checking),
- programming paradigms and their integration (including functional, logic, concurrent, and object-oriented),
- semantics facilitating the formal development and implementation of programming languages and systems,
- advanced type systems (including polymorphism and subtyping),
- program analysis (including abstract interpretation and constraint systems),
- program transformation (including partial evaluation and term rewriting), and
- implementation techniques (including compilation).

The programme committee received 64 submissions from which 23 papers were accepted. Additionally the proceedings contain invited contributions from Cliff B. Jones and Simon L. Peyton Jones.

Programme Committee:

Radhia Cousot	(France)	Oscar Nierstrasz	(Switzerland)
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Hanne Riis Nielson	(chair, Denmark)	Andrzej Tarlecki	(Poland)

I would like to thank all the members of the programme committee as well as the referees (see below) for their care in reviewing and selecting the submitted papers. I also wish to express my gratitude to Chris Hankin for hosting

the PC meeting at Imperial College, London. A number of people have shared their expertise with me or assisted in handling the submissions: special thanks to Torben Amtoft, Kirsten L. Solberg (for developing the `CoChair` system for automatic processing of referee reports), Karen K. Møller, Flemming Nielson, Bodil Padalak, Don Sannella, and Reinhard Wilhelm. ESOP'96 was hosted by Linköping University; the effort of the local organisers is gratefully acknowledged.

Aarhus, February 1996 Hanne Riis Nielson

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