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Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling, and Prediction

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Preface

This volume contains the accepted papers presented orally and as posters at the 2014 International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling, and Prediction (SBP 2014). This was the seventh year of the SBP conference, and the fourth since it merged with the International Conference on Computational Cultural Dynamics (ICCCD). This year the SBP 2014 conference was co-located with the Behavioral Representation in Modeling and Simulation (BRiMS) conference, which had a separate submission, review, and acceptance process and produces a separate record of its proceedings.

In 2014 the SBP conference continued its traditions. We received a set of 101 submissions (from 17 countries), down from last year's 137 submissions but better than the prior highest number of 88 submissions. SBP continued to be a selective, single-track conference. Twenty-four submissions were accepted as oral presentations, a 24% acceptance rate. We also accepted 31 posters, more than we had previously, for an overall 54% acceptance rate. Three papers were withdrawn and one paper did not meet the length requirements to be published. This resulted in 51 papers included in this volume. Finally, continuing our tradition, a bound copy of these proceedings was distributed to participant attendees at the conference and made available electronically as well as part of Springer's *Lecture Notes in Computer Science* series.

This conference is strongly committed to fostering multidisciplinary research, consistent with recent trends in computational social science and related fields. Authors were asked to indicate from a checklist which topics fitted the papers they were submitting. Many papers covered multiple topics across categories, reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of the submissions and the accepted papers. Consequently, the papers in this volume are presented in alphabetical order by the surname of the first author, instead of placed into preset categories. The topic areas that formed the core of previous SBP conferences were all represented: social and behavioral sciences, health sciences, military science, methodology, and information science.

Across the five topics, the overall number of submissions varied somewhat with the most papers in the category of information sciences (91 submissions, 30%), followed closely by methodology (87 submissions, 28%) and the topic of behavioral, social sciences, and economics (77 submissions, 25%). Health sciences and military science the least represented topics (29 and 24 submissions, respectively, and just less than 10% each). However, the acceptance rate by topic area varied very little across the topics, demonstrating that the quality of the submissions did not vary by topic. Although we cannot compare the quality of this years' submissions with last year, we can say that they were practically uniform across this wide range of topics.

There were a number of events that took place at the conference that are not contained in these proceedings, but they added greatly to the scientific and collegial value of the experience for participants. The first day of the conference included several tutorials on topics ranging from social media to computational models, among others. In the main conference program, each day was marked by a scientific lecture offered by a distinguished keynote speaker. These and other activities are documented on the SBP 2014 conference website, which also contains additional information (http://sbp-conference.org).

Conference activities such as SBP only succeed with assistance from many contributors, which involves a year-long and in many cases a multi-year effort on the part of many volunteers whose names are acknowledged in the next section. Following last year's success, the conference was held once again in downtown Washington, DC, at the University of California's DC Center on Rhode Island Avenue, during April 1–4. We are very grateful for their hospitality and many forms of logistical support. The 2014 Conference Committee met frequently during the year preceding the event, making numerous decisions concerning papers, posters, speakers, sessions, and all other components of a complex event such as this. We are grateful to the program co-chairs and reviewers, to each of the special activities chairs (for diverse activities such as sponsorships, registration, publicity, website, tutorials, challenge problems, and others), as well as the Steering Committee of founding members and the Advisory Committee of funding members, all of whose names are gratefully acknowledged in the next section. Finally, a special thanks to Dorothy Kondal, Administrative Assistant at the Center for Social Complexity, George Mason University, for her indispensable help in executing tasks, keeping us on schedule and organized. We thank all for their kind help, dedication, and collegiality. Funding for the SBP 2014 Conference was also made available by the Mason Center for Social Complexity.

January 2014

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Table of Contents

Oral Presentations

Human Development Dynamics: An Agent Based Simulation of Adaptive Heterogeneous Games and Social Systems 3
Mark Abdollahian, Zining Yang, and Patrick deWerk Neal

Mobility Patterns and User Dynamics in Racially Segregated Geographies of US Cities 11
Nibir Bora, Yu-Han Chang, and Rajiv Maheswaran

Incorporating Interpretation into Risky Decision-Making: A Computational Model 19
David A. Broniatowski and Valerie F. Reyna

Labeling Actors in Social Networks Using a Heterogeneous Graph Kernel 27
Ngot Bui and Vasant Honavar

Sample Size Determination to Detect Cusp Catastrophe in Stochastic Cusp Catastrophe Model: A Monte-Carlo Simulation-Based Approach 35
Ding-Geng(Din) Chen, Xinguang (Jim) Chen, Wan Tang, and Feng Lin

Who Will Follow a New Topic Tomorrow? 43
Biru Cui and Shanchieh Jay Yang

Identifying Emergent Thought Leaders 51
Andrew Duchon and Emily S. Patterson

System-Subsystem Dependency Network for Integrating Multicomponent Data and Application to Health Sciences 59
Edward H. Ip, Shyh-Huei Chen, and Jack Rejeski

How Individuals Weigh Their Previous Estimates to Make a New Estimate in the Presence or Absence of Social Influence 67
Mohammad S. Jalali

Two 1%s Don't Make a Whole: Comparing Simultaneous Samples from Twitter's Streaming API 75
Kenneth Joseph, Peter M. Landwehr, and Kathleen M. Carley

Estimating Social Network Structure and Propagation Dynamics for an Infectious Disease 85
Louis Kim, Mark Abramson, Kimon Drakopoulos, Stephan Kolitz, and Asu Ozdaglar

Predicting Social Ties in Massively Multiplayer Online Games 95
Jina Lee and Kiran Lakkaraju

Winning by Following the Winners: Mining the Behaviour of Stock Market Experts in Social Media 103
Wenhui Liao, Sameena Shah, and Masoud Makrehchi

Quantifying Political Legitimacy from Twitter 111
Haibin Liu and Dongwon Lee

Path Following in Social Web Search 119
Jared Lorince, Debora Donato, and Peter M. Todd

Multi-objective Optimization for Multi-level Networks 129
Brandon Oselio, Alex Kulesza, and Alfred Hero

Cover Your Cough! Quantifying the Benefits of a Localized Healthy Behavior Intervention on Flu Epidemics in Washington DC 137
Nidhi Parikh, Mina Youssef, Samarth Swarup, Stephen Eubank, and Youngyun Chungbaek

Integrating Epidemiological Modeling and Surveillance Data Feeds: A Kalman Filter Based Approach 145
Weicheng Qian, Nathaniel D. Osgood, and Kevin G. Stanley

Identifying Users with Opposing Opinions in Twitter Debates 153
Ashwin Rajadesingan and Huan Liu

A New Approach for Item Ranking Based on Review Scores Reflecting Temporal Trust Factor 161
Kazumi Saito, Masahiro Kimura, Kouzou Ohara, and Hiroshi Motoda

Segmenting Large-Scale Cyber Attacks for Online Behavior Model Generation 169
Steven Strapp and Shanchieh Jay Yang

Emergent Consequences: Unexpected Behaviors in a Simple Model to Support Innovation Adoption, Planning, and Evaluation 179
H. Van Dyke Parunak and Jonathan A. Morell

Deriving Population Assessment through Opinion Polls, Text Analytics, and Agent-Based Modeling 187
Ian Yohai, Bruce Skarin, Robert McCormack, and Jasmine Hsu

mFingerprint: Privacy-Preserving User Modeling with Multimodal Mobile Device Footprints 195
Haipeng Zhang, Zhixian Yan, Jun Yang, Emmanuel Munguia Tapia, and David J. Crandall

Poster Presentations

Using Trust Model for Detecting Malicious Activities in Twitter 207
Mohini Agarwal and Bin Zhou

Predicting Guild Membership in Massively Multiplayer Online Games 215
Hamidreza Alvari, Kiran Lakkaraju, Gita Sukthankar, and Jon Whetzel

Emoticon and Text Production in First and Second Languages in Informal Text Communication 223
Cecilia R. Aragon, Nan-Chen Chen, Judith F. Kroll, and Laurie Beth Feldman

The Needs of Metaphor 229
David B. Bracewell

Behavior in the Time of Cholera: Evidence from the 2008-2009 Cholera Outbreak in Zimbabwe 237
Anne Carpenter

Mutual Information Technique in Assessing Crosstalk through a Random-Pairing Bootstrap Method 245
Xinguang (Jim) Chen and Ding-Geng Chen

New Methods of Mapping: The Application of Social Network Analysis to the Study of the Illegal Trade in Antiquities 253
Michelle D'Ippolito

A New Paradigm for the Study of Corruption in Different Cultures 261
Ya'akov (Kobi) Gal, Avi Rosenfeld, Sarit Kraus, Michele Gelfand, Bo An, and Jun Lin

A Study of Mobile Information Exploration with Multi-touch Interactions 269
Shuguang Han, I-Han Hsiao, and Denis Parra

Dyadic Attribution: A Theoretical Model for Interpreting Online Words and Actions 277
Shuyuan Mary Ho, Shashanka Surya Timmarajus, Mike Burmester, and Xiuwen Liu

Modeling Impact of Social Stratification on the Basis of Time Allocation Heuristics in Society 285
Michal Kakol, Radoslaw Nielek, and Adam Wierzbicki

The Social Aspect of Voting for Useful Reviews 293
Asher Levi and Osnat Mokryn

Simulating International Energy Security 301
David Masad

Team PsychoSocial Assessment via Discourse Analysis: Power and Comfort/Routine 309
Christopher Miller, Jeffrey Rye, Peggy Wu, Sonja Schmer-Galunder, and Tammy Ott

Social TV and the Social Soundtrack: Significance of Second Screen Interaction during Television Viewing 317
Partha Mukherjee and Bernard J. Jansen

Social Network Structures of Primary Health Care Teams Associated with Health Outcomes in Alcohol Drinkers with Diabetes 325
Marlon P. Mundt and Larissa I. Zakletskaia

Emerging Dynamics in Crowdfunding Campaigns 333
Huaming Rao, Anbang Xu, Xiao Yang, and Wai-Tat Fu

Incorporating Social Theories in Computational Behavioral Models 341
Eunice E. Santos, Eugene Santos Jr., John Korah, Riya George, Qi Gu, Jacob Jurmain, Keumjoo Kim, Deqing Li, Jacob Russell, Suresh Subramanian, Jeremy E. Thompson, and Fei Yu

Contexts of Diffusion: Adoption of Research Synthesis in Social Work and Women's Studies 351
Laura Sheble and Annie T. Chen

Temporal Dynamics of Scale-Free Networks 359
Erez Shmueli, Yaniv Altshuler, and Alex "Sandy" Pentland

Big Data-Driven Marketing: How Machine Learning Outperforms Marketers' Gut-Feeling 367
Pål Sundsøy, Johannes Bjelland, Asif M. Iqbal, Alex "Sandy" Pentland, and Yves-Alexandre de Montjoye

"Frogs in a pot": An Agent-Based Model of Well-Being versus Prosperity 375
Chris Thron

Frabjous: A Declarative Domain-Specific Language for Agent-Based Modelling 385
Ivan Vendrov, Christopher Dutchyn, and Nathaniel D. Osgood

Social Maintenance and Psychological Support Using Virtual Worlds ... 393
Peggy Wu, Jacquelyn Morie, J. Benton, Kip Haynes, Eric Chance, Tammy Ott, and Sonja Schmer-Galunder

Civil Unrest Prediction: A Tumblr-Based Exploration 403
Jiejun Xu, Tsai-Ching Lu, Ryan Compton, and David Allen

Studying the Evolution of Online Collective Action: Saudi Arabian Women's 'Oct26Driving' Twitter Campaign 413
Serpil Yuce, Nitin Agarwal, Rolf T. Wigand, Merlyna Lim, and Rebecca S. Robinson

A Comparative Study of Smoking Cessation Programs on Web Forum and Facebook 421
Mi Zhang, Christopher C. Yang, and Katherine Chuang

Author Index 431