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Social Informatics

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Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of the 9th Conference on Social Informatics (SocInfo 2017), held in Oxford, UK on September 13–15, 2017. Continuing the tradition of this conference series, SocInfo 2017 brought together researchers from the computational and the social sciences with the intent of closing the chasm that has traditionally separated the two communities. The goal of the conference was in fact to provide a forum for practitioners from the two disciplines to define common research objectives and explore new methodological advances in both fields. The organizers welcomed a broad range of contributions, ranging from those that apply the methods of the social sciences in the study of socio-technical systems, to those that employ computer science methods to analyze complex social processes, as well as those that make use of social concepts in the design of information systems.

This year SocInfo received 142 submitted papers from a total of 451 distinct authors, located in 41 different countries covering 6 continents. We were glad to have a broad and diverse Program Committee of 218 experts with a strong interdisciplinary background from all over the world. The Program Committee reviewed all submissions and provided the authors with in-depth feedback on how to improve their work. In line with previous events, this year SocInfo continued to employ a single-blind peer review process. Papers received at least two reviews by the Program Committee; some submissions received up to five.

The Program Committee selected 40 submissions for oral presentation (28% acceptance rate) and 44 submissions to be presented as posters (30% acceptance rate). In line with the goal of fostering participation from fields with different publication practices than those of computer science, authors were given the chance to present their work without having it included in the proceedings. Four submissions opted out from the proceedings, taking the total number of contributions included in these volumes to 80.

In addition to posters and paper presentations, SocInfo 2017 hosted six great keynotes delivered by Licia Capra (University College London), Jennifer Golbeck (University of Maryland), Filippo Menczer (Indiana University), Gina Neff (University of Oxford), Daniele Quercia (Bell Labs), and Markus Strohmaier (RWTH Aachen University).

We would like to congratulate and thank all the authors and attendees for selecting this venue to present and discuss their research. We would like to thank everybody involved in the conference organization that helped us in making this event successful. We owe special thanks to the Steering Committee of this conference for their input and support, particularly Adam Wierzbicki, the chair of the Steering Committee.

The organizers are extremely grateful to all the reviewers and the members of the Program Committee for their tireless efforts in making sure that the contributions adhered to the highest standards of scientific rigor and originality. We thank our two hardworking program co-chairs Afra Mashhadi and Giovanni Luca Ciampaglia, who oversaw the process and put together a great program for this event. They both went

out of their way to guarantee the quality of these proceedings and their support in other aspects of the conference organization was a great help to us. We are grateful to our publicity chair Julia Proskurnia, and our web chair Adam Tamer. This event would not have been possible without the generous support of the staff of the Oxford Internet Institute; in particular we would like to thank our sponsorship chair Victoria Nash, our finance chair Duncan Passey, and, last but not least, the local organizer Jordan Davies. We are extremely grateful to Wolfson College and in particular to Louise Gordon, who kindly provided us with the venue and amazing logistic support.

We are very thankful to our sponsors, particularly the Alan Turing Institute, Springer, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

September 2017 Taha Yasseri

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