

# Message from the Doctoral Symposium Chairs

## ACSOS 2020

Welcome to the 2020 Doctoral Symposium of the International Conference on Autonomic Computing and Self-Organizing Systems!

This year marks the beginning of a new conference series (ACSOS) which combines the long-established ICAC and SASO research communities. This means that 2020 is the first ever Doctoral Symposium of the new ACSOS event, though if we count the previous communities' symposia we are the 6th consecutive iteration of the symposium. This year is also one which finds the world around us in a strange place amid the Covid-19 pandemic; as a result, this year's ACSOS will take place entirely online. This new format brings both new opportunities for wider engagement and new challenges in ensuring an event that is as exciting as a physical conference and continues to offer opportunities for the social interactions that renew old friendships and build new ones.

The ACSOS Doctoral Symposium provides a unique space for PhD students in self-\* research areas to present their work to a broad range of international experts in the field, both to gain experience at presenting ideas and to gain experienced feedback on their research plans. This year the programme committee has selected five exciting papers of great interest to the ACSOS community, including work on guided and adaptive machine learning, self-organizing production systems, and self-reproducing robotic control systems.

The PhD student authors of these submissions will present lightning talks describing their research in the main track of ACSOS, and will also join a dedicated Doctoral Symposium session to discuss their research in depth. For the first time this year we are also excited to adopt a mentoring scheme, in which each author is paired with an experienced member of the community to help guide them through their first ACSOS experience.

We have a really exciting programme and look forward to the event!

Phyllis R. Nelson, *California State Polytechnic University Pomona, USA*  
Barry Porter, *Lancaster University, UK*  
Jean Botev, *University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg*  
***ACSOS 2020 Doctoral Symposium Chairs***