

11th International Doctoral Symposium on Empirical Software Engineering (IDoESE 2013)

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Abstract—Empirical research has become an important means in any science and continues to grow in importance also in software engineering research. The ISERN and ESEM community together with the Empirical Software Engineering Journal have advanced the state of the art in how empirical research is conducted today in software engineering. We now have a plethora of empirical research techniques at our disposal, and it sometimes becomes challenging to choose the appropriate one. Also the application of the techniques, such as experiments, case studies, surveys or systematic literature reviews, is complicated and needs detailed understanding.

This doctoral symposium aimed at supporting PhD students who are already conducting or plan to conduct empirical research as part of their research project. Experienced empirical researchers from the board of advisors reviewed the research plans from PhD students and gave them detailed feedback and guidance. The most promising research plans were invited for presentation at the symposium where the students could get more direct feedback in the discussion. Each of the presenting PhD students was assigned a mentor from the board of advisors who supported them in improving the research plan.

Keywords—empirical software engineering; doctoral research

I. OVERVIEW

Empirical research provides a plethora of principles and methods to explore various facets in software engineering. We now have well understood empirical research techniques at our disposal. The choice of appropriate techniques for conducting empirical research as well as the evaluation of empirical results, e.g., for their validity or the accuracy in which the research is conducted, however, remains a challenging task. This is especially true when opting for long-term research plans that involve several research facets to be explored via different empirical techniques.

The objective of the symposium is to provide junior researchers with the opportunity to present their work to the empirical software engineering community and receive valuable feedback from experienced researchers in that community. Accepted papers are published on the ESEM conference website.

Experienced members of the empirical software engineering community served as the symposium advisors and

provided feedback to students presenting their work. In addition, the symposium facilitated the exchange of ideas among young researchers.

Participation in the symposium was being solicited at three levels:

- *Participants* were doctoral students, preferably at a mid-point in their dissertation work (i.e. are at least 12 months from defending their dissertation, but have at least a preliminary research design), who presented their work at the symposium and received feedback from a dedicated mentor from the board of advisors, the other symposium advisors and other attendees.
- *Apprentices* are also doctoral students, but at an earlier stage in their studies. Apprentices attended the symposium and were encouraged to ask questions of the presenters, and were able to benefit from the feedback given to other students.
- *Observers* were any other members of the empirical software engineering research community who wanted to attend the symposium.

II. BOARD OF ADVISORS

The board of advisors comprehended the following members:

- Stefan Wagner, University of Stuttgart, Germany, co-chair
- Daniel Méndez Fernández, Technische Universität München, Germany, co-chair
- Maya Daneva, University of Twente, The Netherlands
- Marcela Genero, University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain
- Lucas Layman, Fraunhofer Center Maryland, USA
- Martin Solari, Universidad ORT, Uruguay
- Laurie Williams, North Carolina State University, USA
- Minghui Zhou, Peking University, China

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