

# Foreword

## VL/HCC 2018

We were pleased to welcome delegates to the 2018 IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human Centric Computing, held in Lisbon, Portugal at the Universidade NOVA de Lisboa. The theme of 2018's conference was Building Human-Adaptive Socio-Technical Systems. These kinds of systems incorporate humans as both developers of and intrinsic parts of the system. We invited three keynote speakers, two from academia and one from industry following this theme. The first, Jason Hong, is a Professor in the Human-Computer Interaction Institute at Carnegie Mellon University. His research focuses on human-computer interaction and privacy and security, a combination that is exposed in new ways in Socio-Technical Systems. His talk focused on understanding and building new tools that address developers' issues with supporting privacy. The second keynote was given by Geraldine Fitzpatrick who is a Professor of Technology Design and Assessment and leads the Human Computer Interaction Group at TU Wien in Vienna, Austria. Her research explores the intersection of social and computer sciences. Her talk uses the domain of developing supportive technologies for aging people to expose issues around modelling behaviors for systems and the realities of living with those models. The final keynote, from industry, was given by Rodrigo Sousa Coutinho, the co-founder and Strategic Product Manager at OutSystems, a Portugal-based software firm which constructed a platform that transforms visual models into running enterprise-grade applications. His talk focused on the story of bringing their visual language to market, and highlighted how OutSystems collaborated with academia.

The VL/HCC 2018 included calls for research papers, full and short (also known as work in progress), posters and showpieces (including tools and other artifacts demonstrations). We also included a call for workshops and tutorials. Research papers were allowed to submit any additional material authors would see as interesting to complement the paper submission, including a video. Several authors submitted such material, which will also be available with the proceedings.

For research papers, the 2018 edition of VL/HCC kept the lightweight double blind review process. The submissions were anonymized as well as the reviews. However, during the rebuttal phase which was also included this year, the authors' anonymity was removed, thus allowing to resolve eventual authorship issues. Each paper was reviewed by at least 3 PC members. After the rebuttal phase, there was a virtual PC meeting where each paper was discussed. To be noted that all PC members were allowed to participate in such a discussion, thus making it richer and broader.

As a best practice the General and Program Committee chairs did not submit any kind of contribution. Other chairs also did not submit contributions to their own tracks.

VL/HCC 2018 attracted 66 research paper submissions, 51 of which within the long paper category and the remaining 15 within the short paper category. Of these, the program committee decided to accept 19 long papers, yielding a 29% acceptance rate. In addition, 5 short papers were accepted, and 7 long papers were converted to short papers, so the program ended up including 12 short papers.

The technical program was also complemented with showpieces, a poster session and a graduate consortium.

The showpieces track accepted 6 contributions, whereas the poster track accepted 8. In addi-

tion, 5 research paper submissions were converted to posters, so the program included 13 posters. The graduate consortium accepted 9 student contributions.

We received 2 workshop submissions, both accepted, namely the *5th International Workshop on Software Engineering Methods in Spreadsheets* and the *1st International Workshop on Designing Technologies to Support Human Problem Solving*. Unfortunately, we did not receive any tutorial proposal.

We believe that the series of events and presentations that were put together provided for an excellent environment for the community to engage and improve our fields of research, which are broadly represented in a remarkable way. Also, the venue definitely provided exposure for works that are in significantly heterogeneous phases, ranging from early stage research and doctorate proposals to fully mature research contributions with potential to influence the state of the practice.

We are much obliged to the individual contributions that shaped what we expect to be generally recognized as a wonderful event. We are particularly grateful to the members of the Program Committee whose commendable dedication resulted in extensive and insightful reviews and enriching follow up discussions. Complementary, we would like to acknowledge the 232 authors of all the different types of submissions, for their leading research and their willingness to write papers describing it.

Several people were directly involved in the organization of VL/HCC 2018: João Saraiva and Stefan Sauer, as Workshop Co-chairs; Birgit Hofer and Miguel Goulão as Showpieces Co-chairs; Licínio Roque and Sandeep Kuttal as Poster Co-chairs; Scott Fleming and Vasco Amaral as Graduate Consortium Co-chairs; Jorge Mendes as Proceedings Chair; Marco Couto and Rui Pereira as Web and Registration Co-chairs; Ana Moreira and João Araújo as Finance and Local Organization Co-chairs; João Miguel Fernandes as Sponsor Chair; and Justin Smith as Social Media Chair. We would publicly like to express our gratitude for your excellent service and availability.

We would also like to acknowledge the significance of the support we received from our sponsors, namely OutSystems, Luso-American Development Foundation, Turismo de Lisboa and IEEE Portugal Section, and from our supporters, namely Universidade de Coimbra & CISUC, Universidade do Minho, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, FCT & NOVA LINCS and IEEE.

We have worked hard for the conference to provide for an exciting and stimulating environment to discuss and further progress our scientific areas, and to consolidate existing collaborations as well as to potentiate fresh ones. It is with renovated confidence that we hope to have achieved such goal. Moreover, we sincerely hope that Lisboa, the Portuguese hospitality, its culture and gastronomy, and the joyful way of life of the Portuguese people provided you all a memorable and treasurable experience!

Jácome Cunha and João Paulo Fernandes  
General Co-chairs

Caitlin Kelleher and Gregor Engels  
Program Co-chairs