10-2020

Message from the general co-chairs and the program co-chairs

Christoph TREUDE
Singapore Management University, ctreude@smu.edu.sg

Hongyu ZHANG

Kelly BLINCOE

Zhenchang XING

Citation

Message from the General Co-Chairs and the Program Co-Chairs

On behalf of the entire conference organizing committee, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to ICSME 2020, the 36th IEEE International Conference on Software Maintenance and Evolution (September 27 - October 3). ICSME is the premier international forum for researchers and practitioners from academia, industry, and government to present, discuss, and debate the most recent ideas, experiences, and challenges in software maintenance and evolution. This is the first virtual ICSME. While COVID19 has prevented us from coming together in beautiful Adelaide, Australia, we are grateful for the chance to connect as a research community in this virtual setting.

ICSME 2020 has a rich and diverse program on the latest innovations and visions in software maintenance and evolution. The Research track received 207 submissions, of which 6 were desk rejected. The remaining papers each received at least three reviews. We utilized a double-blind reviewing process for the Research Track based on the success of double-blind reviewing adopted over the past several years. Following an extensive online discussion, 58 papers were accepted, yielding an acceptance rate of 28.7%. The reviewers were encouraged to look for reasons to accept papers that made a nice contribution, and there was no specific acceptance rate target. The accepted papers will be published in the official conference proceedings, which will also be available in the IEEE Digital Library. Up to the top 10% of accepted papers will be awarded the IEEE TCSE Distinguished Paper Awards, which will be announced during the conference.

Besides the Research track, the ICSME 2020 program also includes the following tracks: Doctoral Symposium Track, Industry Track, Journal First Track, Late Breaking Ideas Track, New Ideas Track, Registered Reports, and Tool Demonstrations Track. Across all ICSME 2020 tracks there were a total of 116 accepted submissions. All papers will be presented at the conference in blended sessions to improve the cohesiveness of the sessions.

ICSME has a long tradition of partnering with influential software engineering journals. The Journal First track received nine submissions, and all were selected for inclusion as presentations at the conference. As in previous years, authors of selected papers from the research track will be invited to submit extended versions of their work to a special issue of the International Journal of Empirical Software Engineering (EMSE) published by Springer. This year we also introduced a new Registered Reports track in which the submissions described their proposed methods and analyses. The authors of the four accepted papers in this track received in principle acceptance at EMSE following completion of the full study, assuming the original protocol is adhered to, regardless of positive or negative results.

ICSME 2020 will feature a ROSE Festival for Recognizing and Rewarding Open Science in Software Engineering for the first time, which received five submissions. We are also working with a team of Diversity and Inclusion co-chairs to help define goals for ICSME's diversity and inclusion efforts and to develop plans for achieving these goals.

The conference will feature three keynotes. All have made outstanding contributions to the field of software maintenance and evolution: Ahmed E. Hassan from Queen's University will talk about "Empirical Evaluations in Software Engineering Research: A Personal Perspective"; Tim Menzies from North Carolina State University will talk about "The Future of Software Engineering (is Knowledge Engineering)"; and Dongmei Zhang from Microsoft Research will talk about "From Software Analytics to Cloud Intelligence – Reflection and Path Forward". The conference will also feature a retrospection on the Most Influential Paper (MIP) of ICSM 2010, which was held in Timișoara, Romania. The MIP award went to the paper "Template-based reconstruction of complex refactorings" by Kyle Prete, Napol Rachatasumrit, Nikita Sudan, and Miryung Kim.

Many people contributed to making ICSME 2020 possible. A special thanks to all the members of the organizing committee for their fantastic work in putting together the conference. Another special thanks to the program committee members of the various ICSME 2020 tracks. They have worked diligently to review many submissions, provide constructive feedback to the authors, and select papers to be included in our program. A very special thanks to the Steering Committee (SC) and, in particular, to Gregorio Robles (the current chair of the SC) for their active support and guidance.

We are proud to host the co-located events SCAM 2020, VISSOFT 2020, and DocGen2. These events provide additional opportunities for exchanging views, advancing ideas, and discussing results in various areas of software maintenance and evolution. We thank the organizers of these co-located events for their help in making ICSME 2020 a success. Finally, we want to acknowledge the IEEE Computer Society for the sponsorship of ICSME 2020 through its IEEE Technical Council on Software Engineering (TCSE).

We hope that you will enjoy the program and participate in thought-provoking and inspiring discussions.

Christoph Treude and Hongyu Zhang

ICSME 2020 General Chairs

Kelly Blincoe and Zhenchang Xing

ICSME 2020 Program Co-Chairs