Preface

The International Conference on Social Informatics was first held in Warsaw, Poland in 2009, followed by Laxenburg, Austria in 2010. Singapore, a major hub in the Asia Pacific region well known for its multi-racial and multi-cultural society, is proud to have hosted the third conference. Both SocInfo 2009 and SocInfo 2010 were small meetings that covered mainly the computing perspective of social informatics. This orientation broadens at SocInfo 2011, reaching out to diverse researchers worldwide in the true Singaporean spirit, where people from different backgrounds meet and mix: a computational social science melting pot.

Ultimately, the quality of a conference depends upon the papers included in its program. We received 68 full papers and 13 poster-paper submissions from across the globe, coming from 40 different countries, showcasing the international character of the conference. The Program and General Co-chairs wish to acknowledge the great work of our seven publicity chairs, who advertised the conference across the different regions. Given the multidisciplinary nature of some of the papers, we had to employ up to eight reviews for some papers to obtain adequate inputs from different perspectives, before deciding on the papers’ inclusion in the program. Our program committee members, supported by some external reviewers, turned in over 290 reviews. Based on these expert reviews, we selected 15 full papers, 8 short papers, and 13 poster papers for the final program.

The healthy number of submissions, followed by the rigorous review process by a multi-disciplinary Program Committee, led to a very exciting program that meets our primary mission to make SocInfo 2011 a premier venue for social and computer scientists to exchange their latest research ideas as a basis for better integrated scholarship from the two disciplines going forward.

The conference hosted papers spanning social network analysis and dynamics, eGovernance, security and privacy issues, peer production, and several case studies, to mention some key topics. This was topped up with four interesting keynote talks by Michael Macy (Cornell University), Noshir Contractor (Northwestern University), Jaideep Srivastava (University of Minnesota), Hsinchun Chen (University of Arizona); two invited speakers, Hiroshi Motoda (AFOSR/AOARD and Osaka University) and Sue B. Moon (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology); and tutorials by Adam Wierzbicki (Polish-Japanese Institute of Information Technology) and Stuart W. Shulman (University of Massachusetts Amherst). The conference also featured a Symposium on Social Dynamics in Online Gaming to create a forum for the discussion of topics regarding online gaming and the dynamics of player interactions.

Without the support of several funding agencies, organizations as well as individuals, organizing SocInfo 2011 successfully would not have been possible. These include sponsorships from AOARD, AFOSR, the Lee Foundation, the
Polish-Japanese Institute of Information Technology, the Media Development Authority of Singapore, and the Singapore Internet Research Centre of Nanyang Technological University. The support from Singapore universities, namely SMU, NUS, and NTU, as well as the other supporting associations, the Singapore Info-comm Technology Federation and the International Communication Association, along with the Steering Committee’s guidance and leadership and student travel, grant support were of key importance.

SocInfo 2011 was organized by a highly dedicated Organizing Committee. We sincerely thank the committee members for their contribution. We would also like to express our gratitude to our Honorary General Chairs, Rajendra K. Srivastava and Steven Miller, for their advice and the Program Committee members for their review efforts. A special thanks also goes to the administrative support team: Dorcas Ho, Angela Kwek, Chua Kian Peng, Wong Cheok Lup, Fong Soon Keat, and others, who helped with the various logistics.

Last but not least, without the authors, presenters, and the attendees, this conference, like any other, would be worth nothing. So a special thanks to all the participants for giving the conference the life it has gained, and we hope that it continues to grow as a multi-disciplinary event in the years to come, providing a platform for researchers and industry partners from many walks of life to come together for the exchange of ideas.

October 2011

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Stephen E. Fienberg
Anwitaman Datta
Stuart Shulman
Baihua Zheng
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