

Muhammad Imran

Qatar Computing Research Institute

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Understanding the role of Social Media during mass convergence events by using big data analysis techniques such as text classification, data mining, and interactive machine learning.

Keywords: *Social Computing, Crisis Informatics, Crowdsourcing, Web Engineering*

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Computer Science

November 2009 – March 2013

University of Trento, Trento, Italy.

Concentration: Computer Science

M.Sc. Computer Science

September 2005 – September 2007

Mohammad Ali Jinnah University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Concentration: Computer Science

B.S. Computer Science

January 2000 – December 2003

Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Concentration: Computer Science

HONORS & AWARDS

- **Best Paper Award**, 10th International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM) held in Baden-Baden, Germany in 2013.
- Recipient of scholarship from Opera Universitaria Italy for four years (2009-2013) to pursue PhD studies.
- Achieved distinguished position (1st place) in Master of Science (Computer Science) degree in 2007.
- Awarded 2nd prize in all Pakistan universities programming competition in 2006.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Muhammad Imran, Carlos Castillo, Ji Lucas, Patrick Meier, and Jakob Rogstadius. Coordinating Human and Machine Intelligence to Classify Microblog Communications in Crises. *11th International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management*, 2014. Pennsylvania, USA.
2. Muhammad Imran, Carlos Castillo, Ji Lucas, Patrick Meier, and Sarah Vieweg. AIDR: Artificial Intelligence for Disaster Response. *23th International Conference on World Wide Web (WWW)*, 2014, Seoul, Korea.
3. Muhammad Imran and Carlos Castillo. Volunteer-powered Automatic Classification of Social Media Messages for Public Health in AIDR. *Public Health in the Digital Age workshop in WWW 2014*, 2014, Seoul, Korea.
4. Sarah Vieweg, Carlos Castillo and Muhammad Imran. Integrating Social Media Communications into the Rapid Assessment of Sudden Onset Disasters. *Accepted for publication at the 6th International Conference on Social Informatics (SocInfo)*, 2014.

5. Muhammad Imran, Shady Elbassuoni, Carlos Castillo, Fernando Diaz and Patrick Meier. Extracting Information Nuggets from Disaster-Related Messages in Social Media. *10th International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM)*, May 2013, Baden-Baden, Germany.
6. Muhammad Imran, Shady Elbassuoni, Carlos Castillo, Fernando Diaz and Patrick Meier. Practical Extraction of Disaster-Relevant Information from Social Media. *SWDM-2013 at the 22th International Conference on World Wide Web (WWW)*, 2013, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
7. Muhammad Moeen Uddin, Muhammad Imran, and Hassan Sajjad. Understanding Types of Users on Twitter. To appear in *SocialCom-Standford 2014*, May 2014, CA, USA.
8. Soudip Roy Chowdhury, Muhammad Imran, Muhammad Rizwan Asghar, Si-hem Amer-Yahia and Carlos Castillo. Tweet4act: Using Incident-Specific Profiles for Classifying Crisis-Related Messages. *10th International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM)*, May 2013, Baden-Baden, Germany.
9. Muhammad Imran, Syed Zeeshan Haider Gillani and Maurizio Marchese. A Real-time Heuristic-based Unsupervised Method for Name Disambiguation in Digital Libraries. *JCDL-2013 WOSP*, July 2013, Indianapolis, USA.
10. Muhammad Imran, Stefano Soi, Felix Kling, Florian Daniel, Fabio Casati and Maurizio Marchese. On the Systematic Development of Domain-Specific Mashup Tools for End-Users. *International Conference on Web Engineering (ICWE)*, July 2012, Berlin, Germany.
11. Florian Daniel, Muhammad Imran, Stefano Soi, Antonella De Angeli, Christopher R. Wilkinson, Fabio Casati and Maurizio Marchese. Developing Mashup Tools for End-Users: On the Importance of the Application Domain. *International Journal of Next-Generation Computing (IJNGC)*, 2012.
12. Muhammad Imran, Felix Kling, Stefano Soi, Florian Daniel, Fabio Casati and Maurizio Marchese. ResEval Mash: A Mashup Tool for Advanced Research Evaluation. *21th International Conference on World Wide Web (WWW)*, 2012, France, Lyon.
13. Muhammad Imran, Florian Daniel, Fabio Casati, Maurizio Marchese. ResEval Mash: A Mashup Tool that Speaks the Language of the User. *ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)*, 2012, Austin, USA.

(Full publications list at <http://mimran.me/publications>)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Post-doctoral Researcher

April 2013 – Present

Qatar Computing Research Institute, Doha, Qatar

Responsibilities: My current research focuses on the application of Social Media mining methods to problems in the humanitarian crises. Humanitarian crisis computing seeks to rapidly identify situational awareness, actionable and tactical information in the big crisis data available on Social Media. Currently, leading research and technical directions of AIDR (Artificial Intelligence for Disaster Response) project. The focus of this applied research project is to use Social Media microblogging platforms like Twitter during mass convergence events and humanitarian crises in an effort to mine and classify information that can help stakeholders gain situation awareness and in their decision making processes.

Research Associate

June 2012 – September 2012

Qatar Computing Research Institute, Doha, Qatar

Responsibilities: Mainly worked on two different research projects. The first project focused on real-time analysis of Social Media platforms such as Twitter, to predict life span of NEWS articles. Analysis of various parameters associated with articles like social media exposure in terms of their spread, first few hours visits, discussion was conducted using time-series analysis techniques. The second project focused on classification and extraction of useful information using machine learning techniques from disaster-related messages posted on Twitter to assist stakeholders in disaster response.

PhD Candidate

November 2009 – March 2013

University of Trento, Trento, Italy

Responsibilities: Worked on the research direction of end-user development. EUD research tries to bring programming closer to the needs of end users. My PhD dissertation introduced the concept of Domain-Specific Mashups in which Web 2.0 technologies were employed to empower and enable non-programmers, non-technical users to develop ad-hoc and situational applications to perform complex data aggregation, processing and analysis tasks.

**TECHNICAL
EXPERIENCE****Database Administrator**

July 2007 – August 2008

National University of Science & Technology (NUST), Islamabad, Pakistan

Responsibilities: I was responsible for the installation, configuration, upgrading, administration, monitoring, maintenance, and security of Oracle database systems. Moreover, performance tuning, query execution, tuning execution plans, were among other important responsibilities.

Java Developer (Intern)

February 2009 – May 2009

OKKAM, Trento, Italy

Responsibilities: Assisted OKKAM research team to analyze big log files of different servers to investigate how complex operations execute and behave under different circumstances. For example, this includes checking how much time a search query took to find an entity in the OKKAM entities database, or why certain part of a query failed.

**PROFESSIONAL - Track Co-chair:
ACTIVITIES**

- International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM 2015).

- Program committee member:

- International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management-Mediterranean (ISCRAM-Med 2014).
- International Conference on Emerging Technologies (ICET 2014).

- Reviewer:

- International Conference on Web Information System Engineering (WISE 2014).
- International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM 2014).
- ACM Web Science Conference (WebSci 2014).
- International Conference on Web Engineering (ICWE 2012).

- Invited talks:

- Machine Learning and Data Analytics Symposium (MLDA 2014).

- **Professional member:**

- Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) professional member since 2012.
- ISCRAM community professional member since 2012.

**TEACHING
EXPERIENCE**

- Service-Oriented Architecture and Applications – course held by Prof. Maurizio Marchese at the University of Trento, 2010 – 2011.
- Laboratory for Service Design and Engineering – course held by Prof. Maurizio Marchese at the University of Trento, 2011 – 2012.

CERTIFICATIONS

- **Oracle Certified Professional (OCP)**
Track: Database Administration
California, USA

**TECHNICAL
SKILLS**

- **Programming:**

- JAVA— SE, EE, EJBs (expert level)
- Web Services (RESTFul, SOAP), Hibernate, SAX, JAXB (expert level)
- Weka: Data Mining Software (advance level)
- Python (beginner level)

- **Databases:**

- Oracle 9i, 10g, 11g (expert level)
- MySQL, MS-SQL Server (advance level)
- Redis (expert level)

REFERENCES

References available upon request.