

IEEE/ACM ASONAM 2023

Message from Steering Chair

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the organizers of the IEEE/ACM conference on advances in social network analysis and mining (ASONAM) to go for virtual conference two years 2020 and 2021. It was not easy to handle the program over these two years because the speakers were widespread in all parts of the world with different time zones. It was not possible to get everyone together at the same time. For some sessions speakers were coming in to present then leaving to go back to sleep because they were forced to wake up and present even after mid-night in their time zone. All of this convinced the organizers that virtual conferences will not work for a real international conference; it might be acceptable for local or regional conferences. However, even by passing the time zone problem will not help solving the major problem or socialization and discussion beyond what is presented at the conferences. This will not be effective without in person attending. Realizing this need, we decided to move back to face-to-face in person participation in 2022. However, the unclear situation of COVID-19 in early 2022 did not help us to go all in person. To stay on the safe side, we decided to go hybrid for 2022 with in person component hosted by Istanbul Medipol University. Only after we completed the conference, we realized that hybrid is the option which should be avoided. It is hard to satisfy two groups of participants simultaneously. The local organizers end up investing their time and effort for lower number of in-person participants. This uncertainty in the organization modality has influenced the number of submissions which decreased compared to the previous years. However, the organizers decided to reduce the size of the conference in 2022 to avoid sacrificing the quality, keeping acceptance rate below 20%. This helped maintaining the acceptance rate which has stabilized around 13-18% since ASONAM was organized in Istanbul, Turkey in 2012. Indeed, Athens was the city where ASONAM was born in 2009 and Istanbul was the city where ASONAM in 2012 showed first signals of maturity and stability in terms of the number of submissions, acceptance rate and participation; the same high quality has been enforced again in Istanbul in 2022. We are happy to see the stability sustained and ASONAM kept its permanent position among top tier international conferences. Every year, authors of all papers presented at ASONAM, and the co-located events are invited to submit expanded versions of their manuscripts to the prestigious SNAM journal, NetMAHIB journal, or the LNSN series which are characterized by their high visibility and fast processing of submissions. Special thanks to Springer Nature for their continuous support since ASONAM started in 2009 and for having their prestigious venues which have been well integrated with ASONAM to the benefit of both parties.

This year, we gathered hybrid over four days to witness interesting and exciting research achievements by various authors who presented full, short, or demo papers. However, a large team of dedicated and motivated research leaders worked closely for twelve months to put together the attractive and intensive scientific program. Their great achievements contribute much to the visibility of ASONAM. I would like to heartedly thank them all. Thank you to all organizers including honorary chairs, general chairs, program chairs, tutorial chairs, workshop chairs, demos track chairs, industrial track chairs, PhD track chairs, and multidisciplinary track chairs. Not to forget in particular the generous support received from the operational organizing team who have spent considerable time and effort handling daily issues and activities, answering emails, updating the Websites, etc. Special thanks to Min-Yuh, Panagiotis, Tansel, Mehmet, Diaylo, Jalal, Ziad, Taleb, Hessam, Malek, Kashfia, Ahmed, Abdullah, Mohammad, Reyhan, Deniz, Loubaba, Oguz, and Peter, who have worked hard to produce the proceedings, communicate with participants/authors, and handle the registration, budget, virtual setup and logistics. Indeed, without their highly appreciated effort it would have been really very hard to maintain the high quality of service. It is also important to thank the participants and the authors who submitted papers, as well as the program committee members and the reviewers who invested their valuable time and effort to provide timely and comprehensive reviews. Hard luck to authors who could not get their papers accepted this year. They are strongly encouraged to submit again and try to get the opportunity and privilege to present their work at ASONAM in the coming years. With the hope that the pandemic will be over soon, and the situation will allow for in-person participation, next year ASONAM 2024 will be held in Europe in one of the most popular touristic destinations.

The received feedback revealed how participants enjoyed ASONAM 2023 in Kusadasi, Turkey. We look forward to receiving your new submissions and seeing you next year for ASONAM 2024.

Steering Chair
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