ISIPTA 2019: Preface

Jasper De Bock   JASPER.DEBOCK@UGENT.BE
Gert de Cooman   GERT.DECOOMAN@UGENT.BE
ELIS – FLip, Ghent University, Belgium

Cassio P. de Campos   C.DECAMPOS@UU.NL
Information and Computing Sciences, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Erik Quaeghebeur   E.R.G.QUAEGHEBEUR@TUDELFT.NL
Wind Energy, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands

Gregory Wheeler   G.WHEELER@FS.DE
Philosophy & Law, Frankfurt School, Germany

The ISIPTA meetings are the primary forum for presenting and discussing advances in imprecise probabilities research. They are organized once every two years by SIPTA, the *Society for Imprecise Probabilities: Theories and Applications*. The first meeting was held in Ghent in 1999. It was followed by meetings in Ithaca, Lugano, Pittsburgh, Prague, Durham, Innsbruck, Compiègne, Pescara and Lugano. After twenty years, we return to Ghent for the

11th International Symposium on Imprecise Probabilities: Theories and Applications.

This anniversary edition will be held from Wednesday 3 to Saturday 6 July 2019.

A total of 51 papers and 30 poster abstracts will be presented, all of which are available on the conference website (`www.sipta.org/isipta2019`) and in the book of papers and poster abstracts. Paper authors also had the option to have their paper published in the PMLR proceedings of the conference; the authors of 50 papers have chosen to do so. Every submitted contribution has undergone a thorough reviewing process by multiple expert reviewers, ensuring the quality of the accepted contributions.

We are pleased to have three eminent invited speakers: *Thomas Dietterich*, *Vladimir Vovk* and *Aharon Ben-Tal*. Thomas is one of the founders of the field of Machine Learning. He will share his views on robust AI and shed some light on the role that imprecise probabilities have to play there. Vladimir (Volodya) developed game-theoretic probability in cooperation with Glenn Shafer. He will present their latest book on the topic, emphasizing its connections with imprecise probabilities. Aharon is an authority on robust optimization. He will explain the basics of this field of research and its relevance to imprecise probabilities.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of ISIPTA, the programme will also feature four Update@ISIPTA talks by former SIPTA presidents: Gert de Cooman, Teddy Seidenfeld, Fabio Cozman and Matthias Troffaes. They will discuss topics in imprecise probabilities close to their hearts, and offer some historical perspective to the younger members of our community, mixed with recent developments and challenges for the future.

Two sets of prizes will be awarded during the conference: the *Best Poster Award*, sponsored by Springer and Wiley, and the *IJAR Young Researcher Award*, granted by the International Journal of Approximate Reasoning. We express our gratitude for their support.

This conference is a result of the productive cooperation between the members of the Steering Committee, formed by *Fabio Cozman*, *Teddy Seidenfeld* and ourselves. We wish to thank all who have contributed to the organization of this conference: Arne Decadt, Alexander Erreygers and Natan T'Joens for their help with the local organization; Wendy Bosschem, Eneko Illarramendi Lerchundi, Inge Lason, Katrien Van Impe and Vicky Wandels for their administrative support; Carnegie Mellon University for enabling us to hand out travel grants; Ghent University and ArcelorMittal for their financial support; the many members of the Programme Committee and the extra reviewers for their dedicated work in evaluating the contributions.

Finally, we thank all who have contributed, and will contribute, to the success of ISIPTA 2019, be it by submitting their research results, presenting them at the conference, or by attending sessions and participating in discussions.

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