

Foreword

ACII 2013

Dear Participant,

Welcome to Geneva and to ACII 2013, “the” conference in Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction.

After Beijing in 2005, Lisboa in 2007, Amsterdam in 2009, and Memphis in 2011, researchers from all over the world will converge to Geneva on 2-5 September 2013 for the 5th biannual ACII conference. Since 2005 and under the auspices of the Humaine association, the ACII conference series has become the premier international forum for research on affective human-machine interaction and intelligent affective systems.

Affect is a phenomena of substantial importance in most if not all of human activities. This ACII edition therefore strives to emphasize the humanistic side of affective computing by promoting research at the cross-roads between engineering and human sciences (including biological, social and cultural aspects of human life). This will be exemplified by the papers in these proceedings, with topics as varied as computerized emotional modelling, literary and cinema studies, art, gaming, learning, stress and anxiety, avatars and virtual worlds, social computing, pattern recognition, advertisement, and real-time implementations to name a few. All have in affect and emotions in common, with an emphasis on a computational view of emotion.

Despite some anxiety in the organizers when there were only about 40 submissions two days before the deadline, in the end we received a record high number of articles: in total, we received 268 submissions (175 regular papers and 93 papers for workshops, the Doctoral Consortium, and demos). In keeping with ACII’s rigorous standards, each paper was reviewed by at least two experts in various subdomains (most papers received three reviews) and vetted by members of the Senior Program Committee and organizers of various events. 55 out of the 175 regular papers were accepted as oral presentations (31 percent acceptance rate), and an additional 48 papers were accepted for poster presentations (an overall acceptance rate of 59 percent). These figures clearly establish the prominent role of ACII in the field.

In addition to the main conference tracks, ACII 2013 will feature three renowned invited keynote speakers as well as a public artistic event, a Doctoral Consortium, an interactive events/demonstrations track, and five workshops. "In all, the proceedings feature 162 papers, including 102 regular papers (oral presentations and posters), 13 demonstration papers and 47 additional papers for the workshops, Doctoral Consortium, and keynote speaker abstracts. Three awards will be presented during the conference: a general best paper award for the main conference track, a Technicolor best student paper award, and the Humaine - Fiorella De Rosis best PhD student paper award for the Doctoral Consortium.

The keynote talks will be given by Dr. Klaus Scherer (University of Geneva), who will speak about “Modeling emotion as dynamically unfolding component processes”, Dr. Christine Lisetti (Florida International University) who will discuss “Affective computing and well-being”, Dr. Georgios Yannakakis (University of Malta, and IT University of Copenhagen) who will talk about “Computer games: challenging, advancing and realizing affective interaction”. The artistic event entitled Mood Conductor will be performed by the VoXP band. During this event you will have to opportunity to conduct the performers by communicating your emotional intentions to them through a smartphone-friendly application.

The conference proper will be preceded by a full day of five workshops on the following cutting-edge topics:

- Affective Interaction in Natural Environments (AFFINE): Interacting with Affective Artefacts in the Wild, organized by Ginevra Castellano, Kostas Karpouzis, Jean-Claude Martin, Louis-Philippe Morency, Christopher Peters, and Laurel Riek;
- Context Based Affect Recognition (CBAR), organized by Zakia Hammal and Merlin Teodosia Suarez;
- Mediated Touch and Affect (MeTA), organized by Gijs Huisman, Nadia Bianchi-Berthouze, and Dirk Heylen;
- Affective Brain-Computer Interfaces (aBCI), organized by Brendan Allison, Guillaume Chanel, Christian Muehl, and Anton Nijholt;
- Festschrift for Roddy Cowie and Ellen Douglas-Cowie, organized by Dorothy Cowie and Catherine Pelachaud.

In keeping with ACII's tradition of encouraging and scaffolding the next generation of researchers the ACII 2013 Doctoral Consortium will serve as forum for PhD students to share ideas about the theories that underlie affective computing, its development, and its application. The goal is to provide early stage PhD students with an opportunity to present their work to a group of mentors and peers from the international community, to receive feedback on their doctoral research plan and progress, and to build a cohort of young researchers interested in affective computing.

As usual, a number of people worked very hard to make ACII 2013 a success. We are indebted to the Senior Program Committee for their exceptional work in reviewing the submissions, writing metareviews, and helping us select the best papers for the conference. We would like to acknowledge Anna Esposito and Nadia Bianchi-Berthouze who organized the Doctoral Consortium. Thanks to Björn Schuller and Marc Mehu for overseeing the organization of the workshops, and to Antonio Camurri who joined Guillaume Chanel to organize the interactive events and the artistic performance. Thanks also to Mohammad Soleymani who took care of the proceedings preparation, and to Joost Broekens (with a special note for his artistic talent) and Theodoros Kostoulas who served as webmasters. We are grateful for the work of the sponsorship chairs, Katarzyna Wac, Marcello Mortillaro, and Inès Mehu-Blantar. Thank to Geneva Tourism for their continuous help and support. We would like to thank the members of the Humaine Associations Executive Committee for their advice and support. Finally, thanks and applause to all the authors for sending us their best work and to all the attendees who bring ACII to life.

ACII 2013 is organized by the Computer Vision and Multimedia Laboratory and the Swiss Center for Affective Sciences of the University of Geneva, where a number of people contributed in one way or another to make the conference a success. Special thanks are extended in this regard to Guillaume Chanel, Mohammad Soleymani, Theodoris Kostoulas, Stéphane Marchand-Maillet, Daniela Sauge, Lara Broi and Marion Gumy who were part of the core team overseeing the daily inflow of emails and issues to be solved as soon as possible.

Last but not least, we would like to thank our sponsors, who generously provided funds to ACII 2013: GFK Verein, Technicolor, Telono, Brain Products, Institut-Telecom, Telecom-ParisTech, the Swiss National Science Foundation, the Société Académique de Genève, the City of Geneva, the Swiss Center

for Affective Sciences and the University of Geneva. It is worth noting as well that ACII 2013 is technically co-sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society and by AAAI – the American Association for Artificial Intelligence.

General Conference Chairs

Thierry Pun, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Catherine Pelachaud, CNRS-LTCl, Télécom-ParisTech, France

Nicu Sebe, University of Trento, Italy

Program Chairs

Anton Nijholt, University of Twente, The Netherlands

Sidney D'Mello, University of Notre Dame, USA

Maja Pantic, Imperial College London, UK