

ICMI 2012 Chairs' Welcome

Welcome to Santa Monica and to the 14th edition of the International Conference on Multimodal Interaction, ICMI 2012. ICMI is the premier international forum for multidisciplinary research on multimodal human-human and human-computer interaction, interfaces, and system development.

We had a record number of submissions this year: 147 (74 long papers, 49 short papers, 5 special session papers and 19 demo papers). From these submissions, we accepted 15 papers for long oral presentation (20.3% acceptance rate), 10 papers for short oral presentation (20.4% acceptance rate) and 19 papers presented as posters. We have a total acceptance rate of 35.8% for all short and long papers. 12 of the 19 demo papers were accepted. All 5 special session papers were directly invited by the organizers and the papers were all accepted. In addition, the program includes three invited Keynote talks.

One of the two novelties introduced at ICMI this year is the Multimodal Grand Challenges. Developing systems that can robustly understand human-human communication or respond to human input requires identifying the best algorithms and their failure modes. In fields such as computer vision, speech recognition, and computational linguistics, the availability of datasets and common tasks have led to great progress. This year, we accepted four challenge workshops: the Audio-Visual Emotion Challenge (AVEC), the Haptic Voice Recognition challenge, the D-META challenge and Brain-Computer Interface challenge. Stefanie Telex and Daniel Gatica-Perez are co-chairing the grand challenge this year. All four Grand Challenges will be presented on Monday, October 22nd, and a summary session will be happening on Wednesday, October 24th, afternoon during the main conference.

The second novelty at ICMI this year is the Doctoral Consortium—a separate, one-day event to take place on Monday, October 22nd, co-chaired by Bilge Mutlu and Carlos Busso. The goal of the Doctoral Consortium is to provide Ph.D. students with an opportunity to present their work to a group of mentors and peers from a diverse set of academic and industrial backgrounds and institutions, to receive feedback on their doctoral research plan and progress, and to build a cohort of young researchers interested in designing multimodal interfaces. All accepted students receive a travel grant to attend the conference. From among 25 applications, 14 students were accepted for participation and to receive travel funding. The organizers thank the National Science Foundation (award IIS-1249319) and conference sponsors for financial support.

The review process was organized using the PCS submission and review system, which ICMI has used in the past. The quality of the review process was high thanks to 26 Area Chairs (ACs) who helped the Program Chairs in defining the Program Committee, and in finding excellent reviewers for each paper. Once reviews were submitted, the ACs provided meta-reviews for all papers which, along with the reviews, were sent to the authors for a rebuttal — a step which allows authors to clarify their intentions and results in higher quality final papers. In a final step, all papers and their reviews were discussed by the Program Chairs on a two-day remote meeting in order to decide on the list of accepted submissions.

The program was formed by grouping papers into main topics of interest for this year's conference. Following the trend in previous ICMI events and many other academic meetings, to minimize paper consumption we decided to distribute the conference proceedings on USB Flash Drives. The program chairs pre-selected the top-ranked paper submissions based on reviewers and area chairs comments. The Best Paper Award committee reviewed these top-ranked papers carefully, identified award finalists (marked in the technical program), and selected the recipients of the Best Student Paper Award and the Best Paper Award. The final award decisions will be announced at the conference banquet.

As in previous events, ICMI-2012 has been organized with the support of ACM and SIGCHI. In addition, considerable support has been provided by our generous sponsors. We have one sponsor at the multimodal level (OpenStream), two bimodal sponsors (ICT, and PASCAL2), and three unimodal sponsors (Microsoft Research, Nuance and Disney Research). We are grateful for the support extended by all these organizations and we hope that ICMI will continue to benefit from their generous support in the years to come.

The chairs would like to thank our colleagues in the conference organization committee for their tireless effort bringing this meeting together. We are thankful to Alesia Egan who served as the local organizer and the treasurer. Finally our thanks are extended to all program committee members and volunteer reviewers who contributed their effort to the review process and made it possible to develop such a high quality technical program. Last, but not least, we would like to thank you: the authors and attendees. Thank you for your work and your time. We hope you find a meeting filled with new ideas, old colleagues and future collaborators!

ICMI 2012 Technical Program Chairs

Justine Cassell
*Carnegie Mellon University,
USA*

Anton Nijholt
*University of Twente,
The Netherlands*

Julien Epps
*The University of New
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ICMI 2012 General Chairs

Louis-Philippe Morency
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