

# Report on the 2018 International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media

*Kate Starbird, Ingmar Weber*

■ *The International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM-18) was held at Stanford University, in Stanford, California, June 25–28, 2018. This report, based on the preface to the ICWSM-18 proceedings and program, summarizes the events of the conference.*

The International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM-18) was held at Stanford University, in Stanford, California, June 25–28, 2018. The 2018 conference was a community effort — authors, reviewers, sponsors, steering committee, and conference organizers — helping ICWSM grow stronger and more vibrant as a premier venue for computational social science and social media research. The AAAI conference was held on the campus of Stanford University.

Jeff Hancock served as the general chair. As program cochairs, Kate Starbird and Ingmar Weber recruited and organized a diverse and experienced team of reviewers — the largest program committee that ICWSM has ever had. In all,



*Save the Date!*

## ICWSM 2019

Munich, Germany

11–14 June 2019

*General Chair*  
Jürgen Pfeffer

*Program Committee Cochairs*  
Ceren Budak, Yu-Ru Lin, Fred Morstatter

*Local Chair*  
Mirco Schönfeld

[www.icwsm.org/2019](http://www.icwsm.org/2019)

69 senior program committee members and 282 program committee members spent weeks carefully reviewing the submissions to finalize the 2018 program.

Workshop proposals were evaluated by Catalina Toma and Feida Zhu. Tutorial submissions were reviewed by Alexandra Olteanu and Kiran Garimella. Carrying on from 2017, Brent Hecht led a coordinated and sustained drive for sponsorships. Fabricio Benevenuto and Luca Aiello — the data chairs — coordinated both the ICWSM data papers and the dataset-sharing initiative using a dedicated Dataverse instance. Nir Grinberg kept the community informed via social media, and Danaë Metaxa-Kakavouli updated the conference website. Kylie Swall provided local support.

ICWSM 2018 received a total of 295 full-paper submissions. Out of these, 48 were accepted for oral presentation and 30 were accepted as posters, resulting in a full-paper acceptance rate of 16 percent. In addition to the full papers, the conference also received 18 dataset papers (10 accepted), 71 poster papers (18 accepted), and 10 demo submissions (3 accepted). Posters and demos were exhibited on June 27.

The conference program included 15 workshops (2 full-day and 13 half-day), 5 half-day tutorials, and the ICWSM Science Slam — all of which took place on June 25. Workshop topics ranged from topical interests in emojis and chatbots; to methodological and ethical challenges for researchers; to societal challenges around cyberbullying and online misinformation.

ICWSM also featured three diverse and distinguished keynote speakers, covering a broad range of research. Elena Grewald, head of data science at Airbnb, presented a talk on the human side of data science. She described the evolution of data science

work at Airbnb, including what is cutting edge in the three tracks of work Airbnb pursues: algorithms, analytics, and inference.

Miguel Luengo-Oroz spoke on working towards a rights-based approach to research and innovation for using data for good. Luengo-Oroz is the chief data scientist at the United Nations Global Pulse in New York, a think tank and research entity on how to use data science for good. He spoke of the UN support for global discussions on how to harness the power of the data revolution to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all.

Sarita Schoenebeck, an assistant professor of information at the University of Michigan, spoke on what's missing when we rely on social media log data. She critically examined popular theories about social media use, and explored emerging research opportunities.

Given the proliferation of social media use around the globe, and the increasingly salient concerns related to this use — on issues ranging from privacy to misinformation to political impact — it is more pressing than ever to better understand these platforms and to support ethical research with their data. ICWSM-18 offered several days in June of exciting talks and conversations that explored these and other challenges and opportunities at the intersection of computational social science, algorithmic innovation, and data mining.

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