

# Preface

This volume has its origins in a meeting held at Microsoft Research, Cambridge, in April 2009 to celebrate Tony Hoare’s 75th Birthday (actually 11 Jan 2009). All the technical papers except for those written by Abramsky, Jackson, Jones and Meyer are based – sometimes closely, sometimes not – on presentations given at that meeting. The idea for the meeting arose in conversations between ourselves and Andrew Herbert of Microsoft, who hosted a truly memorable and happy event.

The meeting was organised by ourselves and Ken Wood, with the financial support of Microsoft Research and Formal Systems (Europe) Ltd, and held over two days. We would like to record particular thanks to Angela Still of Microsoft for making all the local arrangements at Cambridge and much more: the meeting would not have happened without her.

While the majority of the papers in this volume are technical, we asked authors to reflect on the influence of Hoare’s work on their own fields and to make appropriate remarks on it. All the technical papers were refereed.

Discussions with Wayne Wheeler of Springer inspired the two of us to write the scientific biography of Hoare that is the first paper in this volume. Though we have both known Tony well for many years, we were amazed at how many discoveries about him we made during the process of writing this article.

We would like thank Wayne and his assistant Simon Rees for their help in preparing this volume as well as their patience. Much of the work in gathering the papers, ensuring consistency of LaTeX styles, etc., was done by Lucy Li of Oxford University Computing Laboratory and we thank her warmly.

Tragically, Ken Wood’s wife Lisa died after a long illness in September 2009. We dedicate this volume to her memory.

January 2010

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