

# Preface

This Festschrift volume is published in honor of Paul G. Spirakis on the occasion of his 60th birthday to celebrate his significant contributions to Computer Science.

The celebration was complemented by a special event that took place in Patras on 16 September 2015 within the frame of ALGO 2015 – the major annual algorithmic event combining the premier algorithmic conference European Symposium on Algorithms (ESA) along with a number of specialized conferences and workshops (ALGO-CLOUD, ALGOSENSORS, ATMOS, IPEC, MASSIVE, WAOA), all related to algorithms and their applications.

*Algorithms, Probability, Networks, and Games* are the fields of Paul's main research activities and we decided to adopt them as the title of the Festschrift, which is divided into three parts.

Part I contains a modest attempt at a biographical sketch as well as essays from close collaborators and a former PhD student. Part II contains research contributions from the three invited speakers to the special event Shlomi Dolev, Kurt Mehlhorn, and Burkhard Monien, who enthusiastically agreed to participate in the event and to contribute to the Festschrift. Part III contains research contributions mostly from Paul's former PhD students, many of whom now pursue an academic career. The contributions of Part III have undergone the standard peer review process. All research contributions reflect past and current research activities in the fields of *Algorithms, Probability, Networks, and Games*. In each part, the contributions are listed in alphabetic order (w.r.t. author names).

Paul Spirakis is an eminent, talented, and influential researcher that has contributed and keeps contributing significantly to computer science. He is among the most visionary thought leaders of our generation, with a great talent in inspiring and guiding young researchers. We are privileged to have him as mentor, teacher, and friend.

**Happy Birthday, Paul!**

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