

# Preface

This volume of Springer's well-known Lecture Notes in Computer Science series presents the papers from the Third International Workshop on Similarity-Based Pattern Analysis and Recognition (SIMBAD), held in Copenhagen, Denmark, from October 12–14, 2015. The aim of this series of workshops, of which the previous two editions were held in Venice and York in 2011 and 2013, respectively, is to consolidate research efforts in the area of similarity-based and dissimilarity-based machine learning, pattern recognition, and statistical learning. The workshop provides an informal discussion forum for researchers and practitioners interested in this important yet diverse subject. The idea of running these workshops originated from the EU FP7 Project SIMBAD (<http://simbadfp7.eu>), which was devoted to this theme in full.

The call for papers resulted in 23 papers being accepted for this workshop. Fifteen of these contributions are full-length papers and report on original and worked-out research. The remaining eight works are extended abstracts whose length is limited to two pages only. These contributions present abstracts of previously-accepted work, preliminary results, open problems, topics for discussion, appeals for novel research directions, or any other essay that suits the aim of SIMBAD and underlines the workshop's character. The 23 papers cover a wide range of problems, techniques, applications, and perspectives: from supervised to unsupervised learning, from generative to discriminative models, and from theoretical issues to empirical validations. In addition to talks and posters based on the peer-reviewed papers, the workshop was graced by invited keynote talks by Barbara Hammer (Bielefeld University, Germany), Nina Balcan (Carnegie Mellon University, USA), and Morten Mørup (Technical University of Denmark, Denmark).

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all those who helped to make this workshop a success. First of all, thanks go to the members of the Program Committee. A special thanks goes to Eyasu Zemene Mequanint for maintaining the web site. We would like to thank the Department of Environmental Science, Informatics, and Statistics of Ca' Foscari University of Venice for providing financial support. We also offer our appreciation to the editorial staff at Springer for producing this book and supporting the event through publication in their LNCS series. Finally, we thank all the invited speakers and enthusiastic participants, and of course you as a reader of these proceedings.

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