

Preface

This book contains the proceedings of FASE 2016, the 19th International Conference on Fundamental Approaches to Software Engineering, held in Eindhoven in April 2016, as part of the annual European Joint Conferences on Theory and Practice of Software (ETAPS 2016).

As usual for FASE, the contributions combine the development of conceptual and methodological advances with their formal foundations, tool support, and evaluation on realistic or pragmatic cases. As a result the volume contains regular research papers, long tool papers, and a short tool demo paper. It is also complemented by a controversial but very interesting essay from our keynote speaker, Oscar Nierstrasz. We hope that the community will find this volume engaging and worth reading.

The contributions included have been carefully selected. We received 108 abstract submissions, from which 90 full-paper submissions materialised. All were reviewed by experts in the field, and after intense discussion, only 24 were accepted, giving an acceptance rate of only 27%. We thank all the authors for their hard work and willingness to contribute, and all the Programme Committee members and external reviewers who invested time in the selection process.

This year, FASE has experimented with a double-blind review process. The authors were asked not to disclose their identity in the papers submitted for review. The reviewers were thus able to read and discuss the papers while avoiding unintended bias caused by author names, affiliations, and other potential influencing factors. The survey of authors' preferences indicates that the authors find this feature of the process valuable, and worth the additional effort of anonymising the papers. We thank the many people who filled in our surveys on the subject. FASE is likely to experiment more with the idea in the future. The community is encouraged to contact the Steering Committee members if they would like to comment.

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