

Preface

The Symbiotic Workshop is the primary venue for presenting scientific works dealing with the symbiotic relationships between humans and computers and for discussing the nature and implications of such relationships.

This volume collects the papers presented at the 5th International Workshop on Symbiotic Interaction, which was held in Padua (Italy) during September 29–30, 2016. Previous editions of the workshop were held in Padua, London, Helsinki, and Berlin. The proceedings are published this year with an open access license by Springer, to improve their accessibility and dissemination.

The workshop was co-sponsored by the MindSee project (<http://mindsee.eu>, FP7-ICT n. 611570) and by the Department of General Psychology of the University of Padua and connected to the Open Innovation Days, a three-day national event organized by the University of Padua and the leading Italian economic newspaper *lSole-24Ore*. It also benefited from the hospitality of Comune di Padova (Padua Municipality) in its historical city hall.

All papers were received in response to a public call and underwent at least two rounds of reviews: In the first round, three members of the scientific committee reviewed each paper double-blind; the 13 accepted papers were then revised by the authors and iteratively checked by the proceedings editors. This led to an acceptance rate of 50%, which is much lower than in the previous editions of this workshop, and to a multiple-step quality check that is the standard for scientific journals more than for conference proceedings. The paper “Prediction of Difficulty Levels in Videogames from Ongoing EEG” by L. Naumann, M. Schultze-Kraft, S. Daehne, and B. Blankertz was awarded best presentation, based on the audience preferences.

In addition to the papers selected through the process described above, the proceedings also include the short abstracts of the presentations by the three keynote speakers (Steve Benford, Hans Gellersen, Sid Kouider), the report of an interdisciplinary panel on the risks of symbiotic systems involving five experts (Mauro Conti, Jonathan Freeman, Giorgia Guerra, David Kirsh, and A. van Wylsberghe), and an introductory note from the two Symbiotic 2016 co-chairs. Some of the posters included in the program were expanded and published in a special issue of the on-line journal *PsychNology* (www.psychnology.org).

We would like to express our gratitude to the colleagues who attended the conference, submitted their work, and reviewed the submissions, for their ideas, attention, and time.

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