

Preface

On behalf of the SSBSE 2017 Program Committee, we are pleased to present the proceedings of the 9th International Symposium on Search Based Software Engineering.

This year SSBSE was hosted in Paderborn, Germany, continuing to bring together international researchers to exchange and discuss ideas and to celebrate the latest progress in this rapidly advancing field.

It was a privilege for us to serve as program chairs and we believe that the quality of the program reflects the excellent efforts of the authors, reviewers, keynote speakers, tutorial presenters, and organizers.

First and foremost we are grateful for the widespread participation and support from the SBSE community. This year, SSBSE attracted a large number of submissions—the technical track alone attracted 26 submissions from 14 countries, which is an increase compared with last year.

We would like to thank all the authors for their high-quality contributions. We had a triple-blind review process in place for the main track. Each submission was reviewed by at least three Program Committee members and followed by an online discussion. At the end of the review process:

- 12 papers were accepted to the research track (7 long and 5 short)
- 4 papers were accepted to the challenge track,
- 2 papers were accepted to the student track.

We would like to thank the Program Committee members for providing timely, detailed, and constructive feedback, and for actively participating in the online discussions.

We also wish to thank the general chair, Lars Grunske, who brought SSBSE to Paderborn and put on, together with his team, such an enjoyable event. Special thanks are also due to:

- The track chairs of our specialist tracks:
 - David R. White and Tanja E.J. Vos for organizing an exciting challenge track;
 - Claire Le Goues for chairing the student and short paper tracks.Dr. Le Goues deserves additional credit for proposing to change the name from graduate to student track, allowing more participation from students; they are a vital part of any research field.
- Also, we especially thank Matheus Paixao (web chair) and Gregory Gay (publicity chair) for their precious help in reaching out to the community.

In addition to our technical sessions, covering a wide range of topics, SSBSE 2017 attendees had the opportunity to hear

- State-of-the-art reports from two esteemed keynote speakers: Myra B. Cohen and Joachim Wegener.
- Technical tutorials from: Gordon Fraser, Antonio J. Nebro, Dimo Brockhoff, and Hermann Kaindl.
- Journal first invited talk sessions.

We hope that, with these proceedings, anyone who did not have the chance to be with us in Paderborn, will have the opportunity to follow the latest advances of the SBSE community.

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