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|  **Doctoral Consortium** |
| 14th International Conference on**Research Challenges in Information Science** **23 – 25 September 2020, Limassol, Cyprus**<http://www.rcis-conf.com/rcis2020/callDoctoral.php> |

SCOPE AND TOPICS

RCIS aims to bring together scientists, researchers, engineers and practitioners from a wide range of information science fields and to provide opportunities for knowledge sharing and dissemination. RCIS 2020 will continue paying attention to traditional topics at the conference; in addition, we solicit submissions aligned the special theme of Information Science in the Days of Artificial Intelligence. We understand AI in a broad sense, including machine learning, self-adaptation, logic-based reasoning, automation, agents and multiagent systems, natural language processing, user modelling, behavioural analytics, etc.

The RCIS 2020 Doctoral Consortium is an opportunity for doctoral students to present, discuss and develop their research project in an interdisciplinary workshop, under the guidance of a panel of senior researchers. The doctoral consortium offers nice opportunities for PhD students. Firstly, the feedback received during the Doctoral Consortium will really benefit students who have defined their topic, research plan and have obtained early results, but who still have room for improving their longer-term plan. Secondly, students at all stages of their doctoral project can meet the welcoming RCIS community and widen their network of contacts.

The main scope and topics of the Doctoral Consortium are the same as those of the main conference. RCIS welcomes submissions from the whole spectrum of the information science field. The list of themes and topics includes, but is not limited to, Information Systems and their Engineering, Data and Information Management, Domain-specific IS Engineering, Information Infrastructures, User-Oriented Approaches, Business Process Management, Data Science, Reflective Research and Practice (see the call for papers of RCIS 2020 for more detail).

OBJECTIVES

The Doctoral Consortium has the following objectives:

* Provide a platform for students to present their work and to meet other peers and be familiar with different research topics and methods.
* Provide feedback on students' current research and guidance on future research directions
* Promote the development of a supportive community of scholars and a spirit of collaborative research and networking
* Contribute to the conference goals through interaction with other researchers.

The Doctoral Consortium is organised in sessions that are part of the RCIS 2020 conference programme.

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| IMPORTANT DATES |  |  | DC CHAIRS |
| Paper submission deadline (AoE): February 21, 2020Notification to authors and registration opening: March 15, 2020Author registration deadline: April 30, 2020Camera-ready paper deadline: April 30, 2020Conference: September 23- 25, 2020 | Raian Ali Bournemouth University, UKSergio EspañaUtrecht University, Netherlands |

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Interested PhD students are invited to submit papers, in agreement with their supervisors, addressing the following instructions. Please bear in mind that we are not prescribing a specific structure of sections; we just expect that you cover these topics in the paper:

* Introduce the field of research and identify the main challenges
* Formulate the research questions and objectives, justifying why they were chosen
* Outline the current knowledge of the problem domain, as well as the state of existing solutions
* Sketch the research methodology that is being applied
* Describe the proposed solution and the results achieved so far
* State how the suggested solution is different from or better than existing approaches
* Indicate the issues still to be resolved and describe the next steps that are planned.

Papers shall be formatted according to the Springer LNCS/LNBIP conference proceedings template (for LaTeX and Word): <https://www.springer.com/gp/computer-science/lncs/conference-proceedings-guidelines> Submissions must be written in English, and must be authored by the student only. The maximum length of the paper should be eight (8) pages, including references, appendices, etc. Papers that have already been accepted or are currently under review for other conferences, workshops or journals will not be considered for publication at the RCIS 2020 Doctoral Consortium. So, while we can accept certain overlap with other papers, we discourage re-submissions and double submissions.

Authors of accepted submissions will submit the camera-ready version using the same format as the initial submission (some additional instructions might be issued at this stage). The reviewers’ comments shall be taken into account in the camera-ready paper. Only papers that have been presented by their author will be published in the conference proceedings. Authors will receive information on the presentation, and how to register for the conference. There will be a discounted registration fee for Doctoral Consortium students.

The accepted papers will be published in a Springer LNBIP volume, along with the other papers accepted for RCIS 2020. This will give visibility to the work of the doctoral student and contribute to building their CV.

The submission site is <https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=rcis2020> Please choose “Doctoral Consortium” as a submission type. By submitting a Doctoral Consortium paper, doctoral students commit that they will attend the conference to present their research. The appearance of a paper in the Springer proceedings is dependent on the registration of the author within the early registration deadline on March 31, 2020.

REVIEW PROCESS

The review and decision of acceptance will be based on the opinions of at least two reviewers. Several factors will be considered, including the quality of the proposal, the clarity of the paper, and the stage within the doctoral education program. The selection process will, when possible, maximise a good coverage of the topics of the conference and diversity of participants' background, research objectives, and research methods.

AT THE CONFERENCE

Each student will present his or her work to the participants with substantial time allowed for discussion and questions by participating researchers and other students. The discussion will be guided by a member of the committee of expert mentors, who will play the role of proposal discussant together with another PhD student that has been accepted at the Doctoral Consortium.

Each student will be invited to review another accepted Doctoral Consortium paper and prepare a few questions to be discussed during the consortium day. The papers will be assigned in advance such that the students will have sufficient time to review the paper and prepare their questions.

The consortium sessions will have an informal and friendly atmosphere where every participant is encouraged to be actively involved in the discussion, the core objective being to learn how to conduct excellent research, as well as provide and receive useful feedback to improve one’s work.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

* Nour Ali, Brunel University, United Kingdom
* Rami Bahsoon, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom
* Nelly Condori, Universidade de Coruña, Spain
* Karl Cox, Brighton University, United Kingdom
* Maya Daneva, University of Twente, Netherlands
* Lin Li, Wuhan University of Technology, China
* Lin Liu, Tsinghua University, China
* John McAlaney Bournemouth Univesity, United Kingdom
* Cees J.H. Midden, Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands
* Ignacio Panach, Universitat de València, Spain
* Xiaohui Tao, University of Southern Queensland, Australia
* Guandong Xu, University of Technology Sydney, Australia