UMAP 2024 Chairs' Welcome

ACM UMAP – the 32nd Conference on User Modeling, Adaptation and Personalization – is the premier international conference for researchers and practitioners working on systems that adapt to individual users or to groups of users, and that collect, represent, and model user information. ACM UMAP is sponsored by ACM SIGCHI and SIGWEB, and organized with User Modeling Inc. UMAP is the successor of the biennial User Modeling (UM) and Adaptive Hypermedia and Adaptive Web-based Systems (AH) conferences that were merged in 2009. The conference edition for 2024 was conceived as an in-person event, with the opportunity for speakers and attendees to participate onsite and meet and discuss ideas in person. Workshops and tutorials also supported remote participation. The conference was hosted at the St. Ignatius Campus, Cagliari, Italy. The conference lasted four days, with the classic tracks that characterize it, spanning from full and short papers, workshops, tutorials, late breaking results, demos, to a doctoral consortium.

ACM UMAP encompasses a broad range of research areas where personalization and adaptation may be applied. This includes several domains in which researchers and industry practitioners are innovating by leveraging new knowledge in the areas of user modeling and adaptation, recommender systems, adaptive educational systems, intelligent user interfaces, e-commerce, advertising, digital humanities, social networks, personalized health, entertainment, and many more. The theme of ACM UMAP 2024 was "Collaboration and Cooperation for the Greater Good". Specifically, we encouraged the submission of contributions highlighting the impact that working together and synergy (such as between academia, industry, influential policy-making bodies, committees, and communities) can have on solving the world's biggest problems; the focus was on investigations that capture how user modeling, personalization, and adaptation of (intelligent) systems, also with the use of large language models and generative artificial intelligence, may influence user behavior, trustful processes and whether new models are required, for building sustainable and inclusive services and solutions that can address critical challenges of our world.

Even though we welcomed submissions related to this year's theme, the scope of the conference was not limited to the theme only. As always, ACM UMAP remained a space for academia, industry, and other organizations to discuss open challenges and novel research approaches related to user modeling, personalization, and adaptation. This year's conference included the following eight tracks:

- Personalized Recommender Systems, chaired by Cataldo Musto (University of Bari "Aldo Moro", Italy), Dimitris Sacharidis (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium), and Eva Zangerle (University of Innsbruck, Austria).

- Knowledge Graphs, Semantics, Social and Adaptive Web, chaired by Danilo Dessì (KTS – GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Science, Germany), Elisabeth Lex (Graz University of Technology, Austria), and Pasquale Lops (University of Bari "Aldo Moro", Italy).

- Intelligent User Interfaces, chaired by Antonija Tanja Mitrovic (University of Canterbury, New Zealand), Ladislav Peska (Charles University, Czechia), and Ben Steichen (California State Polytechnic University, USA).

- Personalizing Learning Experiences through User Modeling, chaired by Ella Haig (University of Portsmouth, UK), Roberto Martinez-Maldonado (Monash University, Australia), and Shaghayegh Sahebi (University at Albany-SUNY, USA).

- Fairness, Transparency, Accountability, and Privacy, chaired by Vito Walter Anelli (Polytechnic University of Bari, Italy), Maria Bielikova (Kempelen Institute of Intelligent Technologies, Slovakia), and Dietmar Jannach (University of Klagenfurt, Austria).

- Personalization for Persuasive and Behavior Change Systems, chaired by Federica Cena (University of Turin, Italy), Alain Starke (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands), and Julita Vassileva (University of Saskatchewan, Canada).

- Virtual Assistants, Conversational Interactions, and Personalized Human-Robot Interaction, chaired by Berardina Nadja De Carolis (University of Bari "Aldo Moro", Italy), Fedelucio Narducci (Polytechnic University of Bari, Italy), and Silvia Rossi (University of Naples Federico II, Italy).

- Research Methods and Reproducibility, chaired by Alejandro Bellogin (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain), Hui Fang (Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, China), and Alan Said (University of Gothenburg, Sweden).

With the help of track chairs, we curated a Program Committee of 175 experts for the technical program. We are very thankful to all of them for their thoughtful reviews; a special thank you goes to emergency reviewers who at the last minute were able to provide their critiques for papers that needed an extra opinion or were lacking a review. This year we also introduced the "Raise Your Voice" stage in the review process so as to facilitate transparency and enhance the quality of the submissions' evaluation. Following the announcement of the initial papers' decisions, authors could discuss the outcome with the Track and Program chairs, asking questions, sharing thoughts, concerns or arguments. In duly justified cases, a decision could be reconsidered and aligned.

We received 146 submissions, written by 487 authors from 48 countries around the world. Differently from 2023, this year there was a distinction between full (14 pages) and short (7 pages) papers. Each submission was reviewed by three or more reviewers and evaluated by the corresponding track chairs. In the end, we accepted 20 full papers (22% acceptance rate) and 16 short papers (29% acceptance rate) submissions, distributed across all tracks, yielding an exciting and diverse technical program for ACM UMAP 2024.

The main conference program included the Late Breaking Results and Demos track, where research-in-progress containing original and innovative research ideas were encouraged, together with demonstrations that showcase implementations valuable for the community. This track was led by Bamshad Mobasher (DePaul University, USA), Hanna Hauptmann (Utrecht University, Netherlands), and Olga C. Santos (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia - UNED, Spain). We accepted 19 LBR submissions (51% acceptance rate) and 4 Demo papers (40% acceptance rate). The next generation of ACM UMAP researchers was showcased in the Doctoral Consortium, coordinated by Martijn C. Willemsen (Eindhoven University of Technology & JADS, Netherlands), Styliani Kleanthous (CYENS CoE and Open University of Cyprus, Cyprus), and Rodrygo Santos (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil). We accepted 9 Doctoral Consortium papers (60% acceptance rate). Each submission in these tracks was reviewed by two or more reviewers and evaluated by the corresponding chairs. We are very thankful for the work of the Late Breaking Results and Demo chairs and the mentorship and support of the Doctoral Consortium chairs.

These calls for papers attracted numerous submissions that the respective program committee members reviewed and accepted, resulting in the following statistics:

The ACM UMAP 2024 keynotes are indeed special highlights of the conference program. These valuable and insightful talks can and will guide us to a better understanding of the future. Our

Table 1: Submission statistics

Track	Reviewed	Accepted	Acceptance Rate%
Technical full papers	91	20	22%
Technical short papers	55	16	29%
Late breaking results papers	37	19	51%
Demo papers	10	4	40%
Doctoral consortium papers	15	9	60%

three diverse keynotes are:

- "Trust in Human-technology Teams: from Decision-support to Generative AI" by Shlomo Berkovsky, Macquarie University, Australia.
- "On the Challenges of Podcast & Audiobook Search and Recommendation at Spotify" by Claudia Hauff, Spotify, Netherlands.
- "Human Control in Daily Environment Automations" by Fabio Paternò, CNR-ISTI, HIIS Laboratory, Italy.

No program is complete without the workshops and tutorials selected by the Workshop and Tutorial chairs, Eelco Herder (Utrecht University, Netherlands), Noemi Mauro (University of Turin, Italy), and Amra Delic-Halilović (University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina):

Workshops:

- CAESAR: 5th Workshop on Adapted Interaction with Social Robots.
- CRUM: 2nd Workshop on Context Representation in User Modelling.
- EXUM: 6th Workshop on Explainable User Models and Personalized Systems.
- GMAP: 3rd Workshop on Group Modeling, Adaptation and Personalization.
- UKDE: 1st Workshop on User-Centered Practices of Knowledge Discovery in Educational Data.
- HAAPIE: 9th Workshop on Human Aspects in Adaptive and Personalized Interactive Environments.
- HUMAD: 1st Workshop on Human-Centered Modeling and Adaptation for Digital Transformation.
- PATCH: 15th Workshop on Personalized Access to Cultural Heritage.
- UCAI: 1st Workshop on User-Centered Artificial Intelligence.
- WEBIUM: 1st Workshop on Wearable Devices and Brain-Computer Interfaces for User Modelling.

Tutorials:

- Collaborative Team Recommendation for Skilled Users: Objectives, Techniques, New Perspectives.
- Designing Effective Conversational Interfaces.
- Mastering Mind and Movement: Tutorial on Modeling Intelligent Psychomotor Systems.
- Paradigm Shifts in User Modeling: A Journey from Historical Foundations to Emerging Trends.

- Trustworthy User Modeling and Recommendation From Technical and Regulatory Perspectives.

Special mention is greatly deserved to our Proceedings chairs, Erasmo Purificato (Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg, Germany), Francesca Maridina Malloci (University of Cagliari, Italy), and Avital Shulner-Tal (University of Haifa, Israel) who managed all these submissions directly with ACM, to create the conference proceedings volumes.

To support student attendance, we offered support in the form of traveling grants. These efforts were overseen by the Student Support chairs Azzurra Ragone (University of Bari "Aldo Moro", Italy), Yong Zheng (Illinois Institute of Technology, USA), and Antonela Tommasel (ISIS-TAN, CONICET-UNICEN, Argentina), who organized all the received requests and applied for additional funding when needed.

We also want to thank our Inclusion and Accessibility chairs, Claudio Pomo (Polytechnic University of Bari, Italy), Giuseppe Sansonetti (Roma Tre University, Italy), and Helma Torkamaan (Delft University of Technology - TU Delft, Netherlands). We are also grateful to our Publicity chairs, Daniele Malitesta (Polytechnic University of Bari, Italy), Cai Wanling (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland), and Guilherme Henrique Caçador Ramos (Instituto Superior Técnico – University of Lisbon, Portugal), who have kept the community connected and up to date. Of course, we want to thank our Web & Digital Content chairs, Giacomo Medda (University of Cagliari, Italy), Isabella Saccardi (Utrecht University, Netherlands), and Maria Kasinidou (Open University of Cyprus, Cyprus), for curating the website and online platform.

Lastly, organizing a conference is not an easy feat. We would like to thank all who volunteered to make this conference a success, starting with our Local chairs, Sebastian Podda, Livio Pompianu, Giacomo Balloccu, Neda Afreen, Andrea Atzori, and Roberta Galici, all from University of Cagliari, Italy, as this was indeed a team effort.

As in previous years, we also officially recognized, with the valuable assistance of our Awards Committee consisting of Liliana Ardissono (University of Turin), Bart Knijnenburg (Clemson University), Julia Neidhardt (TU Wien) and Sole Pera (TU Delft), the Best Full Paper, the Best Student Paper, the Best Short Paper, the Best LBR Paper, and the Best Demo Paper awards (sponsored by Springer, User Modeling Inc., the Department of Computer Science of University of Turin, the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science of University of Cagliari, and Adiacent respectively) and exceptional reviewers with Best Reviewer awards.

Last, but not least, we would like to thank our sponsors and supporters — ACM, SIGCHI, SIGWEB, NSF, User Modeling Inc., Springer, University of Turin, University of Cagliari, Adiacent and the UM Board — for their great support, which was needed to conduct this edition of the conference appropriately and successfully. They made possible, among other things, student support.

We hope that you find this program interesting and thought-provoking, and that the conference program and proceedings provide you with a valuable opportunity to share ideas with other researchers and practitioners from institutions around the world.

On behalf of all chairs: Thank you for your interest and support!

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