

WWW 2017

Web Science Chairs' Welcome

We are pleased to welcome you to the *WWW 2017 Web Science track*. As the name implies, Web Science explores the theory and practice of web use with a special emphasis on socio-technical systems and social machines. Web Science is inherently interdisciplinary, involving the confluence of computer science with sociology, economics, law, psychology and many other disciplines.

Differentiating from many of the other technical papers in the conference, Web Science papers explore the macro properties of the web and its use at scale, addressing both technical and social/societal aspects.

Building on past WWW Web Science tracks, this year's track has four themes:

- Health
- Social networks and user modelling
- Understanding networks
- Web mining

Papers address diverse topics within these areas, ranging from crowdsourcing and semantics to economics and social machines of spam.

This year, based on criteria defining the realm of web science, the WWW PC nominated forty papers that were submitted to the main conference for inclusion in the Web Science track. After meta-review of these forty papers, we are happy to present twelve that represent the principles described above.

We are delighted to welcome Professor Dame Wendy Hall to open the track. In addition to opening and paper presentations, we look forward to several panels on current topics in Web Science.

This track could not have happened without the support of many volunteers. We particularly thank the IW3C2 members, the WWW organizers and the PC for their support in preparing this track, and of course the authors.

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