BPM NEWSLETTER

BPM 2018 INTRODUCES TRACK STRUCTURE

BPM is a broad discipline, covering topics that range from formal methods in computer science to techniques in information systems engineering, to management science methods. Not only different research topics are addressed, but also different research methods are employed that require different evaluation criteria in the peer reviewing process.

To accommodate for the diversity of the BPM field, the Steering Committee has decided to introduce a new structure. This structure is based on three tracks that cover not only different phenomena of interest and research methods but also different evaluation criteria. Track I (Foundations) covers the computer science perspective, focusing on novelty and formal clarity; information systems engineering approaches with an empirical evaluation are covered in Track II (Engineering), while the business value of BPM methods and tools is investigated in Track III (Management). The motivation of the track system were highlighted in the keynote by Mathias Weske at BPM 2017.

To implement different evaluation criteria, each track has a dedicated track chair and a dedicated program committee. The track chairs, together with a consolidation chair, are responsible for the scientific program. Through this new structure we aim to broaden the BPM community and position the BPM conference as a forum for all aspects of the broad business process management discipline. Mathias Weske summarizes "the goal is to have high-quality papers in different areas of BPM research and, yes, the goal is to accept more papers".
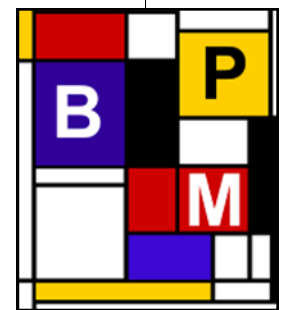
BPM 2018, Sydney, Australia
September 9-14, 2018

THANKS FOR MAKING BPM 2017 A SUCCESS !

It has been a great pleasure to organize the BPM conference in Barcelona. For the first time, the conference visited Spain.

The conference has been a success in many senses! We had a very high number of attendants, both from academy and industry. There was an outstanding technical program, including high-quality keynotes, research and industry papers, tutorials, a doctoral consortium and a panel. In each one of the three main conference days, we had around three hundred attendants, coming from 34 different countries. These numbers witness the high interest the field has nowadays.

This year we incorporated some innovations in the organization that proved to be very useful, like a cloud-based submission system for presentations, and an app for boosting the communication between organizers and attendants, and facilitating the networking.

The social program included many activities, like a reception in a terrace facing the Mediterranean sea, Human Towers (Castellers, one of the principal expressions of the Catalan culture), a guided visit to the Sagrada Familia and a gala dinner with a panorama view of the city.

The conference definitely helped to position the BPM field in Spain as a hot topic, gathering the attention of many local companies and administrations. The manifestation of this was the colocated event taking place the last day, where different organizations participated and many synergies emerged.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all the actors involved in the organization, and specially to the local team which worked hard to make this year BPM conference to be remembered for the years to come. Thank you all!

Josep Carmona
(General Chair BPM 2017)

REFLECTIONS BY THE BPM 2017 PC CHAIRS

BPM 2017 had a strong program. Once again the paper selection was very rigorous with just about 16% of papers being accepted from all submissions. The technical program featured 19 papers distributed across six sessions including two on process mining, and one each on process modeling, decisions and understanding, and process knowledge. Finally, there was also a session that included papers on novel topics like Blockchain and BPM as a service. There were three keynote talks on the three days of the conference. The first by Miguel Valdes from Bonitasoft focused on the role that AI is likely to play in BPM. The second one by Mathias Weske from HPI Potsdam was reflective in nature encompassing various accomplishments this field has made in the last 15 to 20 years. Mathias also explained the new format of the conference around three tracks starting from 2018. The last keynote by Alan Brown of the University of Surrey centered on digital transformation and its effect on business models and processes. The program also had a panel discussion chaired by Jan Mendling on AI, machine learning and blockchain that garnered much interest.

Another highlight was the BPM forum that accompanied the main program. The forum program consisted of 11 papers that were presented in three sessions. The selection of the papers in the forum was guided by the novelty of the contributions. The demo program organized by Henrik Leopold and Robert Clarisó was also rich with more than 30 demos. Finally, there were four tutorials on verification of processes and data (Marco Montali and Diego Calvanese), design theories in BPM research (Roel Wieringa), conformance checking (Massimiliano de Leoni, Boudewijn van Dongen and Jorge Munoz-Gama) and process model repair based on behavioral alignments (Abel Arma). Over all, it was nice to see renewed interest in areas like Blockchain, holistic process modeling, understanding of modeling practices empirically, and digital innovation and user experience.

Josep Carmona
Gregor Engels
Akhil Kumar
(PC Chairs BPM 2017)

NEW BPM STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Mathias Weske has been appointed as the new chair of the BPM steering committee. He took over from Wil van der Aalst who served for 14 years as chair. During this period the conference has become the premium forum for researchers, practitioners and developers in the field of Business Process Management. Wil organized the first BPM conference in 2003 in Eindhoven. Mathias organized the second BPM conference in 2005 in Potsdam. Both Wil and Mathias are founding members of steering committee that was established in 2003. Marlon Dumas will serve as vice-chair.

Currently the steering committee has 11 members. See bpm-conference.org for the current and previous members.

WELCOME TO BPM 2018, WELCOME TO SYDNEY!

The city of Sydney is Australia's leading global city and the destination of choice for international corporations, business leaders, tourists and students. It provides headquarters for almost 40% of the top 500 Australian corporations. Digital, financial, educational and creative businesses are all thriving in Sydney, a destination internationally recognized for its outstanding environmental performance and cultural events, and as a future-focused and innovative business center.
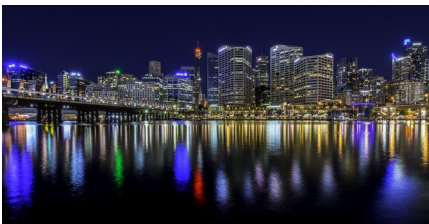
We invite you to participate in the BPM Conference in September 2018 to contribute to shaping the BPM of the future. To accommodate for the diversity, BPM 2018 introduces a new structure, based on three tracks that cover differ-ent research methods and which employs different evaluation criteria, including Foundations (Track I), Engineering (Track II) and Management (Track III).

Sydney is a university hub including: The University of New South Wales, Macquarie University, University of Technology Sydney and University of Sydney. Sydney is home to one of the most beautiful harbors in the world. Established in 1842, Sydney is the most populous city in Australia and Oceania. The city has been consistently ranked over the years as one of the most liveable cities in the world according The Economist Intelligence Unit. Each year, Sydney attracts millions of international and domestic visitors thanks to its captivating scenery and vibrant musical, theatrical, visual and plenty of other artistic and entertainment events. The city also features an outstanding combination of urban modernity and nature, with beautiful beaches and zoos, including Bondi Beach and Taronga Zoo, located just minutes away from the Cen-tral Business District (CBD).

BPM 2018 will be a strategic event focusing on both building bridges with the business community because of its ongoing contribution to the emerging field of Services Science, and linking the Australasian region with the larger and international BPM community.

We look forward to welcome you to Sydney in an exciting edition of the BPM Conference, where we will have plenty of opportunities for discussing the future of BPM and sharing memorable moments with the community in the conference's cruise reception and dinner in the heart of one of the city's most iconic places: The Darling Harbor.

Read more about BPM 2018 and the city of Sydney via

http://bpm2018.web.cse.unsw.edu.au and http://www.sydney.com

Boualem Benatallah and Jian Yang

(General Chairs, BPM 2018)

BEST PAPER AWARDS AND BEST REVIEWER AWARD

The best paper award of BPM 2017 was given to the joint work of Arik Senderovich and Avigdor Gal (Technion – Israel Institute of Technology), and Matthias Weidlich (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany) for their paper entitled "Temporal Network Representation of Event Logs for Improved Performance Modelling in Business Processes". The picture on the right was taken during the award ceremony at the gala dinner in Barcelona

The best student paper award of BPM 2017 was given to Florian Richter and Thomas Seidl (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany) for their paper entitled "TESSERACT: Time-drifts in Event Streams using Series of Evolving Rolling Averages of Completion Times".

The BPM conference acknowledges the excellent work of the PC members and additional reviewers. The reviewing process at BPM 2017 was supported by 106 PC members. The PC Chairs have decided to give the best reviewer award to Ekkart Kindler, associate professor in computer science and engineering at Informatics and Mathematical Modelling at the Technical University of Denmark in Copenhagen.

DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM AT BPM 2017

Six young researchers, on their path towards a PhD, discussed their research topics with five experts in the field at the Doctoral Consortium at BPM 2017. It was nice to see that other interested PhD students joined the session to learn from the discussion of BPM-related topics. This year, each candidate presented his or her ideas using pen and whiteboard only. This format proved very useful indeed, because it allows the presenter to focus on the essentials of the approach without getting lost in details.

PhD student Francesca Zerbato from the University of Verona acknowledges the open-minded atmosphere of the consortium, and she continues "I previously participated in two other consortia and, despite the positive outcome, I always noticed that senior members tend to tell students how they should do their work, and who they should cite. In Barcelona, thanks to the welcoming and open-minded environment, it was different. The consortium provided me with new insights about my own research that I had not considered and I had the chance of understanding how my research approach is perceived and where it can find a place within the community."

Jury member Jan Mendling gives a supervisor's perspective, by saying that "I believe it is important for the young PhD candidates to realize that what they will eventually arrive at is a consistent problem-solution pair. This is exactly not finding a solution for a problem, but iterating and refining both their research problem statement and their specific solution to this problem during their PhD journey. "

Co-organizers Antonio Ruiz Cortés and Mathias Weske were impressed by the quality of the work by the PhD students. "It is great to see the dedication and commitment of the PhD candidates. Sometimes it is one or two ideas related to the scoping and positioning of the work that makes a difference." Finally we like to thank Signavio for helping the students to travel to Barcelona and to participate in the Doctoral Consortium.

INTERVIEW WITH MIGUEL VALDES, CO-FOUNDER OF BONITASOFT

The BPM 2017 conference opened up with an energetic keynote by Miguel Valdes Faura, CEO and co-founder of Bonitasoft – the company behind the Bonita open-source Business Process Management System (BPMS). Miguel started his keynote by asserting "BPM is Not Dead", and will not die anytime soon because it is a fundamental management framework that continuously helps companies to channel the benefits of many emerging technologies. He then exposed his vision of how BPM will help organizations to take advantage of the coming age of blockchain and AI technologies, by providing a bridge between the affordances of these technologies and business improvement opportunities.

After his keynote, we had the pleasure of interviewing Miguel. We discussed blockchain, AI, the democratization of BPM, user experience, and of course Bonita, the product to which he has dedicated his entire career, since leaving Barcelona in 2001 to join a project led by François Charoy at INRIA in France, from where he later jumped to other related projects at Bull (nowadays part of Atos) and eventually co-founded Bonitasoft.

The story of Bonita is the story of BPMSs, from its very beginnings at INRIA and Bull in the early 2000s, down to its widespread adoption today. A major milestone in this story was reached in October 2011, when Bonita crossed the bar of one million downloads and 250 paying customers.

Can you describe what have been the major developments at Bonitasoft since this milestone? Would you describe these last six years as a continuation of the growth trajectory you had in 2011, or have you experienced major shifts in customer needs or in the market that have forced you to significantly revise or adjust your product development roadmap?

Miguel: Our main focus over the last 6 years has been to develop the company

internationally, mainly Europe, US and Latin America. We have seen two interesting shifts from our initial vantage point as a provider of a BPM platform now in use worldwide.

First, we have seen a shift in focus from operational to strategic projects. More and more enterprises aren't simply looking to improve their operational processes (i.e. to reduce costs or improve margins and productivity). We realized early on that this is a growing necessity for digital transformation, to apply process-based initiatives to do things differently and create unique value, not just do them better. Strategy is about doing things differently, not simply doing them better than everyone else.

Second, in order to better serve those strategic projects requirements we've expanded our BPM platform capabilities to allow development teams to create highly personalized business (process-based) applications. I'm talking here about things such as responsive user interfaces (UI's) design capabilities, easy access to business data from both business processes and UI's or still the ability to create customer-facing apps that seamless connect UIs with business processes and operations. At the end of the day, strategic projects or strategic digital transformation projects are about creating new or improving existing customer experiences.

We want to make sure our technology is used across the enterprise to help our customers do business differently – to enable innovation and creativity – leading to strategic advantage.

The stated mission of Bonita is to democratize BPM. When we think about democratization of an enterprise technology, we think about SMEs. But when we talk about BPM to managers at SMEs, we often hear that BPM is for large companies. Have you come across this comment and if so, what's your take on it?

Miguel: When we started Bonitasoft, back in 2009, we aimed to create a more open, more flexible, and more fun brand of software than anything else on the market. We set out to democra-

tize the BPM business – to make BPM software easier to adopt, easier to use and easier to adapt over time. At the time, BPM was considered a long, convoluted, expensive proposition for a company to undertake. We came to the market with a new brand of technology that helped customers generate value much more quickly than anything else out there.

Our vision has turned into reality. Today, we have 1000+ customers in 60 countries and an open source community of more than 120.000 members using Bonita open source/free edition in companies of any size.

With the release of Bonita v7 mid-2015 we decided to took our own game to the next level and to focus on BPM democratization as well as expansion inside world's largest organizations. For that, we extended product capabilities to offer a broad process application development platform targeting more complicated use cases. Those use cases/projects are being addressed by multidisciplinary design and development teams.

In your keynote, you argued that blockchain technology has the potential to disrupt the way business processes are managed. Do you believe that this disruption will affect mainly processes that are already automated by existing BPM systems such as Bonita, or do you see it as a new market disruption, which will allow BPM vendors to support entirely new processes and even bring in new customers or users?

Miguel: I really believe that the opportunity here is much bigger than the current BPM projects. New generation of BPM and Blockchain platforms can complement each other to enable innovative teams to create advanced applications with multiple organizations work together to deliver better products or services. Business applications in which different companies need to trust a common process and the same time need to ensure that every step of the process is secure.

BPM platforms can greatly simplify and enhance the development of those business applications on blockchain. BPM's graphically based capabilities

allow blockchain application developers to abstract the complexity of blockchain and model it visually in BPMN2, to quickly integrate with systems and to create dedicated UX's to each application participant.

You also discussed in your keynote the disruptive potential of AI in the BPM field. Interestingly, you stressed that AI has a role to play in enabling continuous improvement of business processes and BPM applications. In particular, you discussed that AI allows BPM systems to move from purely descriptive business process monitoring to predictive and prescriptive monitoring, which in turn allow process workers and operational managers to continuously improve the performance of the process. However, the introduction of predictive and prescriptive monitoring features into BPM systems will require process workers and their managers to change the way they work. For example, workers will have to continuously listen to recommendations, act upon them and give feedback to the recommender system.

Hence, on the one side, the introduction of AI into BPM systems will be somehow disruptive, but on the other hand, it will enable continuous improvement, which means that benefits will only be seen in the long-term. Do you see here a tension between on the one hand the disruptive nature of this technology and the substantial upfront investments it will require, and on the other hand the fact that its benefits might come only from long-term continuous improvement?

Miguel: Good question. I see Intelligent Continuous Improvement as a plug-and-play add-on to existing BPM applications. This is really powerful as it will enable operational managers to re-use historical data of BPM applications and processes to get predictions and recommendations on new executions. This approach also allows teams to start new BPM applications without an upfront investment and, at the same time, offers the right peace of mind.

Of course, this kind of plug and play add-on will require some level of configuration, data extraction and tuning to make sure that predictions are accurate.

This was your first time at the BPM conference. What did you think about the conference in general? What were your main take-aways from the conference?

Miguel: Honestly, I was positively surprised. I knew that the audience was primarily academics so I was expecting some kind of disconnect between the topics and research presented and the business requirements I experience on a day to day basis as a vendor.

The reality is that I met with a lot incredibly talented people that were not only domain experts but that were also used to work more and more with end customers and vendors (not only from the BPM space). This is particularly true for people involved on AI-related technologies as the access to real customer data is essential.

The conference has also been the opportunity for me to identify some great potential R&D collaborations... more on that soon :-)

What challenges or what perspectives do you think that the BPM research community should be focusing more on?

Miguel: As I mentioned during the keynote presentation, I really believe we need to spend more time looking for new ways to improve user experiences in BPM applications (... and I include here software vendors too!).

Anything else you want to add?

I wanted to thank once again the Steering Committee for the opportunity to open such a great conference!

And remember that "BPM isn't gonna to solve it all, but its usually a damn good place to start!" :-)

Thank you Miguel. We look forward to seeing you again in future editions of BPM.

The slides and video recording of Miguel Valdes's keynote can be found at the conference web site: https://bpm2017.cs.upc.edu/keynotes/keynote-valdes-2/

(Interview by Marlon Dumas)

PROCESS DISCOVERY CONTEST 2017 & BPIC 2017

This year we held the 7th edition of the **BPI Challenge**. We invited the same financial company that provided the data for the 2012 edition to give the community access to a fresh event log for the same process. Participants were asked to analyze the data using whatever techniques available, focusing on one or more of the process owner's questions or proving other unique insights into the process captured in the event log.

Due to the sponsoring of Celonis and Minit, we were able to have three different categories of participants, namely students, academics and professionals. In total, the challenge received 3 academic, 6 professional and 14 student submissions. The Jury was impressed by the high quality of the submissions overall. All reports will appear on this website in a few weeks after the authors get a chance to submit a final version based on the jury comments.

This year's winners were all contacted in time and the sponsors made it possible for all of them to join the BPI workshop in Barcelona where we had a small award ceremony and the three winners presented their main findings.

In the **student category**, Elizaveta Poval-yaeva, Ismail Khamitov and Artyom Fomenko from the Moscow Higher School of Economics won the challenge with their submission entitled: Density Analysis of the Interaction With Client. In the **professional category**, Liese Blevi, Julie Robbrecht and Lucie Delporte from KPMG Technology Advisory, Belgium won with their submission entitled: Process mining on the loan application process of a Dutch Financial Institute which was even accompanied by a PowerBI dashboard. In the **academic category**, Ariane Rodrigues, Cassio Almeida, Daniel Saraiva, Felipe Moreira, Georges Spyrides, Guilherme Varela, Gustavo Krieger, Igor Peres, Leila Dantas, Mauricio Lana, Odair Alves, Rafael França, Ricardo Neira, Sonia Gonzalez, William Fernandes, Simone Barbosa, Marcus Poggi, and Hélio Lopes from Pontifícia Universidade won the challenge with their submission entitled: STAIRWAY TO VALUE: Mining the loan application process.

Following the success of the first edition, a second edition of the **Process Discovery Contest** was organized. Its objective is to compare the quality of techniques to discover process models without enforcing a particular notation. Process models can be seen classifiers that split the set of possible behaviors (traces) into fitting (i.e., possible) and non-fitting (impossible).

For the contest, 10 "reference" models were created. For each process model, a training event log was generated which contained traces that were either perfectly fitting or missing the last events. These training logs were used by the participants to discover 10 process models. For every process model, an undisclosed "reference" test log was created containing 20 traces: ten positive traces (traces recording behavior compliant with the "reference" model) and ten negative traces (the trace recording behavior not compliant with the "reference" model). The submissions were subsequently ranked by accuracy, namely by the percentage of positive and negative traces that were correctly classified as such when using the submitted models.

The top-notch submissions (in terms of higher accuracy) were ranked by a jury that contained both academics and practitioners.

The winner was the team of P. Dixit and H. Garcia Caballero, who generated accurate models (98.5%) that were considered as highly understandable by the jury.

The contest was organized by Josep Carmona, Massimiliano de Leoni, Benoît Depaire, and Toon Jouck. It was sponsored by Cognitive Technology, who kindly offered the lodging and travel expenses for one member of the winning team to receive the prize.

We hope that many of you will participate in the BPI Challenge 2018 and the Process Discovery Contest 2018!

FIRST BPM DISSERTATION AWARD

In this year, the BPM Conference announced the **BPM Dissertation Award** for the first time. Eligible as candidates were all dissertations that have been officially completed between 01 January 2016 and the time of the announcement, embracing any type of research on BPM no matter which research methods have been used. This means that dissertations that have been conducted using formal methods, empirical methods or design methods are equally welcome.

The winner of the award was determined in two steps. First, a review committee evaluated the submission material and identify a short list of three candidates. Second, these three candidates were invited to give a presentation of their work in an online session with the review jury. The jury then selected the winner. The selection process was directed by the following criteria: originality and depth of contribution, methodological soundness, form and quality of presentation, and significance for the research field. The members of the jury were Wil van der Aalst, Akhil Kumar, Brian Pentland, and Mathias Weske. Jan Mendling served as the organizing chair.


We are happy to announce that this year's winner of the BPM Dissertation Award is **Arik Senderovich** from Technion Haifa - congratulations! The winner receives the award at the BPM Conference 2017 in Barcelona. The award is connected with a price of 1,000 EUR and a free registration for the conference. We are proud to have Bizagi as the sponsor of this award for this year!

Next year, there will be the BPM 2018 Dissertation Award. The call for applications to this award will be published in early 2018. Eligible will be all dissertations that have been officially completed after 01 January 2017.

Jan Mendling
(chair of BPM Dissertation Award)

EDITED BOOK ON BPM CASES

Recently a book was published describing 31 cases of the application of BPM in practice. These cases were presented using a structured format in order to make them readily accessible and to allow for comparison. The book is accompanied by the website http://www.bpm-cases.com on which additional material including slides for all cases is provided. The book is meant to inspire practitioners and illustrate BPM concepts for students. The book was edited by Jan vom Brocke (next year's BPM Chair of the Management Track) and BPM Steering Committee member Jan Mendling and many other people from our community contributed to it.
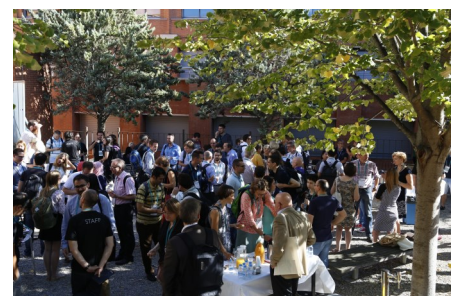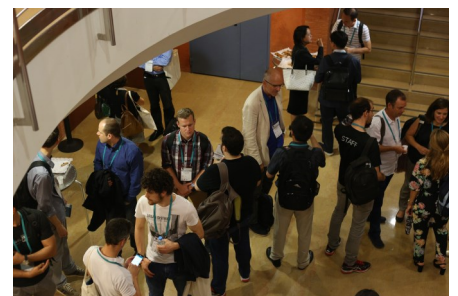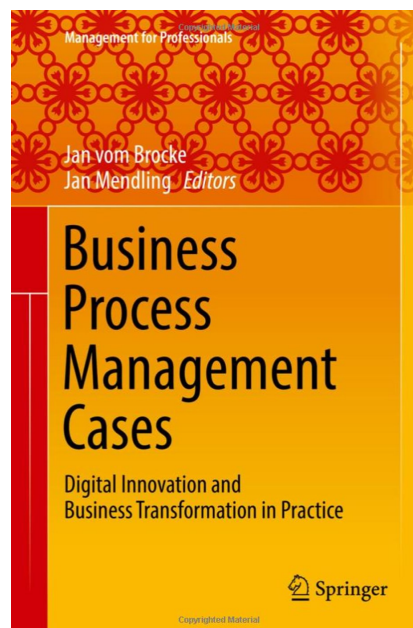
CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS: WHY DON'T YOU ORGANIZE A WORKSHOP AT BPM 2018?

The BPM conference series is known among academics and practitioners as the venue where to meet the people that focus most on business process

management in their research, software development and business, worldwide. *In short, it's the conference where the BPM community comes together and debates results,* findings and technologies that advance the state of the art in business process management.

Yet, the BPM conference is not only the place where to discuss final results and market-ready technologies: it is, first and

foremost, the place where the research questions of tomorrow are raised, where new ideas are conceived, novel hypotheses formulated, and conventional positions are challenged — all thanks to the active and genuine engagement of researchers and practitioners actively involved in the community.

Many of these forward-looking activities happen in the events co-located with the main conference, most notably the BPM Workshops that complement the conference and offer participants the opportunity to present their novel ques-

tions and ideas, even if they are not yet fully fledged out, and to gather feedback from the community in order to advance ideas and eventually turn them into scientific contributions we all strive for.

To continue the successful workshops of recent BPM conferences, we **solicit high-quality workshop proposals** that may focus on specific research topics or be devoted to application domains or standardization aspects. Workshops that expand the scope of the topics traditionally presented at the BPM conference series and that build bridges toward other topics are highly encouraged as well. To complement the new management perspective of track III of the main conference, we invite workshops that address management aspects including the value created by BPM as well as cultural and human aspects. We are looking forward to your workshop proposals and see to you in Sydney!

Call for workshop proposals: http://bpm2018.web.cse.unsw.edu.au/Call_for_Workshop_Proposals.html

Deadline: 1 December, 2017

Florian Daniel, Hamid Motahari, Michael Sheng
(BPM 2018 General Workshop Chairs)
workshops-bpm2018@cse.unsw.edu.au

Welcome to the 16th International Conference on Business Process Management

BPM TEST OF TIME AWARD 2017

The **BPM Test of Time Award** is given every two years. In 2017 the award was given to the most influential paper presented at BPM 2007 in Brisbane and BPM 2008 in Milan. The decision was made by the Steering Committee of the BPM conference series and was based

on impact of the paper on the BPM field (both from a scientific and practical viewpoint), number of citations (Google Scholar and Scopus), technical quality, and presentation. The BPM Test of Time Award 2017 was given to **Shazia Sadiq**, **Guido Governatori**, and **Kioumars Namiri** for their paper "Modeling Con-

trol Objectives for Business Process Compliance" presented at BPM 2007 in Brisbane. This paper was one of the first to address the traditional disconnect between process modeling and compliance management. Understanding of the interplay between (often conflicting) business and control objectives during business process design is of key importance. The BPM 2007 paper is one of the most cited BPM papers of its period. Clearly, the importance of conformance and compliance in BPM has increased and several research groups all over the globe followed up on this work. Clearly, the paper helped to raise more awareness for the compliance challenges in BPM.

The selection of the award was not an easy one. As usual there were many good and influential papers to choose from. Hence, the Steering Committee decided to also hand out a Runner-Up BPM Test of Time Award to **Jussi Vanhatalo**, **Hagen Völzer**, and **Jana Koehler** for their paper "The Refined Process Structure Tree" presented at BPM 2008 in Milan. The paper presents

a modular technique of workflow graph parsing to obtain fine-grained fragments with a single entry and single exit node. The resulting process structure tree can be obtained in linear time. Applications of the seminal work can be found in process simplification, refactoring, querying, model transformation, conformance checking, process discovery, clone detection, decomposed process mining, and verification.

The next BPM Test of Time Award will be handed out at BPM 2019 in Vienna. The award(s) will then be given to the most influential work presented at BPM 2009 in Ulm and BPM 2010 in Hoboken.

BPM 2017 DEMO TRACK

The mission of the **BPM Demo track** is to provide a forum for showcasing BPM tools originating from both research and industry. The interest in the BPM Demo track has been steadily increasing over the last years, resulting in a high number of submissions covering various aspects of the BPM lifecycle. This year's BPM Demo track received 43 submissions, of which 34 were selected for presentation at the BPM conference.

Among others, these tools introduced novel ideas for process modelling, process analytics, process execution, process mining, and process simulation. The target application domains were also diverse, including, among others, healthcare, retail and the Internet of Things. In general, there was a noteworthy shift from tools for modelling and mining to tools for process

analytics. Notable examples of such tools were "bupaR", a tool for process analytics in R, and "Nirdizati", a web-based tool for predictive process monitoring. The latter was awarded as the "Best Demo" of 2017, with the Natural Language Processing environment "NLP4BPM" as a runner-up.

Besides the high number of academic participants, the BPM Demo track also garnered interest from industry. An example is the sponsorship of the BPM Demo track by MySphera (http://

mysphera.com). Moreover, we were also happy to have vendors from industry presenting their tools. Among others, Celonis presented their latest process mining suite.

During the BPM conference, the Demo session attracted more than 120 participants, who had fruitful discussions during the live demos. This shows that the BPM Demo track is indeed a forum for practitioners and academics to meet and to learn from each other. The proceedings of the 2017 BPM Demo Track are published at http://ceur-ws.org/Vol-1920/

Robert Clarisó Viladrosa and
Henrik Leopold
(BPM 2017 Demo Chairs)

DEDICATED MANAGEMENT TRACK @ BPM 2018

BPM 2018 will feature a **dedicated Management Track**, chaired by Jan vom Brocke. By focusing on business value creation, this track welcomes papers in different areas related to digital innovation and transformation, organizational capabilities like culture and governance structures, as well as managerial issues and theories.

This management track is thus all about the people-related aspects, and can be seen as a complementary and enriching perspective to the rather technical or analytical side of BPM. The need for the management perspective has been rising since the years 2000s, and is well-described in the Gartner's cartoon that introduces Ana and Emo as the BPM twin. By recognizing the three novel BPM tracks, the BPM community now refines the cartoon by giving birth to a BPM tripling.

In addition to the management track, BPM 2018 will feature a management workshop for agenda-setting and for starting new research in the field. Also a special issue in a Basket journal of IS (European Journal of Information Systems) will we linked to this track in 2018, and will be organized by Jan Mendling, Brian T. Pentland and Jan Recker. Dear management community, submit your papers to BPM 2018 and get ready for Sydney!
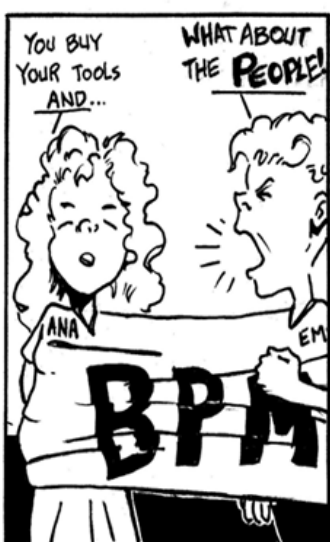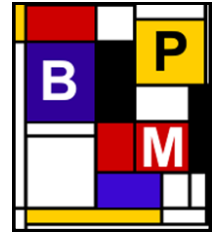
See you in Sydney @ BPM2018
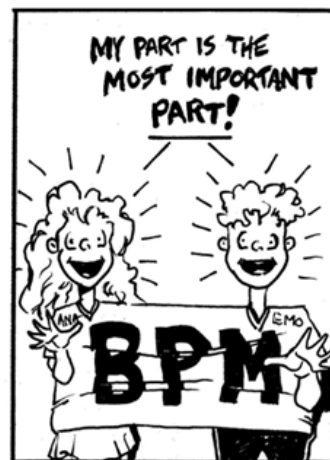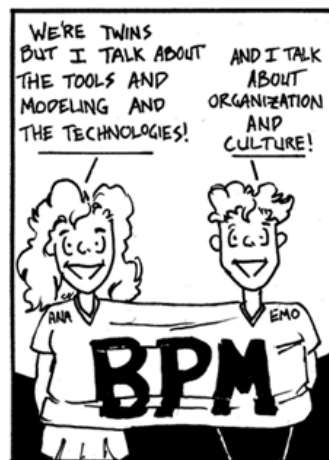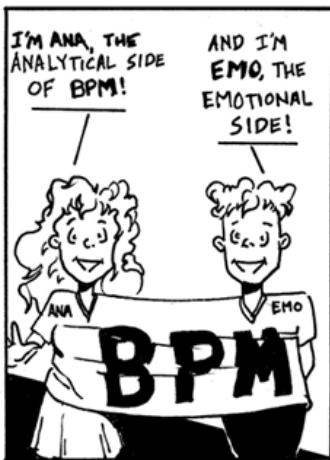
(Source: Gartner, 2009: http://blogs.gartner.com/daryl_plummer/2009/09/08/is-your-bpm-initiative-from-mars-or-venus/)

Visit bpm-conference.org

This newsletter is a new activity related to the BPM conference series. The goal is to further strengthen the BPM community that formed over the last decade. This newsletter will appear twice per year. Input for the next newsletter is welcome (e.g. activities related to the BPM conference, interviews, contests, new datasets, tools, etc.).

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNITY

In May 2017 it was announced that Wil van der Aalst will receive the **Alexander von Humboldt award**. Worth five million euros, the Humboldt professorship is the most valuable research award in Germany. He will move from TU/e to RWTH Aachen at the end of the year.

The annual meeting of the **IEEE Task Force on Process Mining** took place after the BPI workshop as part of the BPM 2017 conference in Barcelona. See http://www.win.tue.nl/ieeetfpm/doku.php?id=shared:events for some impressions and the minutes.

The workshop **Algorithms & Theories for the Analysis of Event Data (ATAED 2018)** will take place in the context of the 39th International Conference on Application and Theory of Petri Nets and Concurrency in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Developers and vendors of process mining tools are encouraged to certify their tool to show **XES compliance**. XES (eXtensible Event Stream - For Achieving Interoperability in Event Logs) was approved as an official standard in 2016.

Make sure to upload the description of your BPM Tool onto the **Tools for BPM database**. The collection comprises graphical model editors, process model repositories, tools for verification and performance analysis, software to enact process models and adapt them during runtime, tools for process mining and conformance checking.

This was the **last issue of the BPM Newsletter edited by Wil van der Aalst**. As chair of the BPM Steering Committee, Mathias Weske will take over this role.