

The (IM)2 Newsletter

Every month the (IM)2 Newsletter brings you the latest and hottest scientific and administrative news about the (IM)2 NCCR and related topics

Coling'04



Coling 2004, the 20th International Conference on Computational Linguistics, took place at the University of Geneva, August 23-27, 2004. The 4-day conference included some 400 participants from over 40 countries. Several members of the (IM)2.MDM IP were key organisers.

The busy program included two talks by invited speakers, a very successful panel discussion and over 180 papers presented in 5 parallel sessions, on a broad range of topics in the fields of computational linguistics, natural language processing, and human language technology.

Three tutorials and twelve workshops, taking place on the weekends preceding and following the main conference attracted some 200 additional participants. Two of those workshops, "Multilingual Linguistic Resources", and "Robust Methods in Analysis of Natural Language Data" (Romand 2004) were organized in part by (IM)2.MDM members.



And, following Coling tradition, it wasn't just all work and no play. In addition to the welcome reception and banquet dinner, the participants were also treated to a daylong lunch-cruise on Lake Geneva with a stop in Nyon.

The organisers of Coling 2004 would like to thank (IM)2 for supporting the 20 or so student volunteers who helped during the conference.

IDIAP's Forum at the 45th Foire du Valais



During this year's "Foire du Valais", on October 1-10, 2004, IDIAP is organizing a full day of presentations and demonstrations targeted to the general public, with special focus for schools and industries. In collaboration with the state of Valais, all final year college students as well as HEVs students have been invited to a dedicated conference where they will not only learn about IDIAP's activities, but also receive information about the opportunities of a scientific career. Testimonials from current IDIAP PhD students and engineers as well as hands-on demonstrations will support the presentation and help establish long term contacts.

While political and industry leaders have been invited for a specific presentation over the lunch break, the afternoon features an open session for the public at large (about 150'000 people visit the Foire du Valais every year). 6 demonstrations booths will also illustrate IDIAP's activities in multimodal biometric user authentication, multimedia indexing and retrieval, microphone array speech processing, brain computer interfaces, low bit-rate speech coding, as well as the Spiderphone system. See www.idiap.ch/forum_idiap.html for more details about this important public relations event.

The day ends with a "First Tuesday" on "Networking to foster economic development", with Lise Cardinal, the famous Canadian advocate of networking, Hervé Bourlard, director of IDIAP and (IM)2, Jean-René Germanier, member of the Swiss Parliament, and Francis Sermet, general manager of the DEWS. It will also feature several technology pitches, giving startups working with IDIAP an opportunity to present their developments.

The First Tuesday is the second of a series of three to take place in Valais this autumn. The two others are focusing on careers management for women and young talents for innovation.

13th Journée des Professionnels de l'Audio Vidéo et Multimédia



This one-day event, part of the annual "Comptoir Suisse" in Lausanne, is the traditional meeting spot of all those involved in the audio and video business in the french part of Switzerland, organised by ARMAV - the Association des professionnels Romands du Multimédia et de l'Audiovisuel. This year's theme was "image", celebrating the 50th birthday of the Swiss television and of Eurovision, but also looking ahead with presentations by representatives of Swisscom and Sony (among others) about high definition television (HDTV), digital broadcast, etc. IDIAP ended the day with a presentation of what is in store in the areas of analysis and management of multimedia documents.

MLMI'04 recordings

The recordings of the MLMI workshop held last June in Martigny are now available on the protected area of the mmm server, accessible to all (IM)2 partners.

Events

SNSF Site Visit 18-19.11.04

The third annual Site Visit of the SNSF Review Panel will take place in Martigny on November 18 and 19, 2004.

NIPS 2004 13-18.12.04

The 2004 Neural Information Processing Systems Conference, including workshops and tutorials, will take place in Vancouver and Whistler, Canada, from December 13 to 18.

SIAB meeting 10-11.2.05

Next year's International Scientific and Industrial Advisory Boards meeting will be held on February 10 and 11, 2005.

As announced in the previous edition, IDIAP has launched an annual Fellowship for Female Researchers.

Deadline for the 2005 grant is November 15, 2004

Full details at www.idiap.ch/fellowship.html.

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Editor: Jean-Albert Ferrez

www.im2.ch/nl nl@im2.ch



IDIAP Fellowship for Female Researchers

WORKING IN SWITZERLAND

IDIAP, Switzerland is offering an annual fellowship to a female researcher who can demonstrate excellence in a field related to its research. The recipient will have the opportunity to work on her own project for one year. IDIAP is a leader in the field of multimodal systems and is working in a number of research areas such as automatic speech recognition, computer vision, multimodal interaction and machine learning.

IDIAP is situated in the small town of Martigny, in the picturesque Swiss Alps. Switzerland offers exceptional quality of living. During the winter the area offers excellent skiing, and summer brings plenty of opportunities for other outdoor activities such as hiking and cycling.



© Valais tourism

FELLOWSHIP FOR FEMALE RESEARCHERS

The IDIAP Research Institute values diversity in its workforce. IDIAP acknowledges that women bring many advantages to the workforce, such as expertise, values, motivation, and different insights and methods of work. In all regions of the world, fewer women than men pursue scientific or technological careers, and even fewer reach top professional, managerial or policy making positions.

This situation reflects a serious problem of qualified female candidates opting out of a career in industry and academia, thereby threatening excellence. IDIAP acknowledges that it needs to be proactive in this area, and has funded this fellowship to boost the careers of female researchers.

Applications for the fellowship are sought from all female researchers who can demonstrate expertise in an area related to IDIAP's research. As a result of the high quality of research undertaken at IDIAP, we have been awarded several large research projects in multimodal interaction, both at the national and European level, e.g. IM2 Interactive Multimodal Information Management www.im2.ch and AMI Augmented Multi-party Interaction www.amiproject.org. The ideal

candidate will be interested in research that aligns with these projects.

Candidates will have the opportunity to work on their own research topic for one year (as outlined in their proposal). The first fellowship will commence at the beginning of 2005. A fellowship will be awarded to a new person each year. Candidates that demonstrate excellence during the time of the fellowship, will be offered a permanent position at IDIAP, resources permitting.

The recipient will receive a competitive salary while working at IDIAP and a generous travel budget. Due to IDIAP's links with other leading institutes and universities around the world, the recipient will have opportunities to collaborate with other research institutes during the year. The working conditions at IDIAP are very flexible and can be adapted to accommodate women with families.

To qualify for the fellowship, you must be an outstanding researcher at the post-doctorate (or higher) level, with a proven record of achievement in your academic field, and be able to formulate a precise and concrete research idea related to your scientific and professional interests and expertise.

Opportunity for a female researcher to work on her own research project for one year

APPLICATIONS

Applications should be sent by email to jobs@idiap.ch. Please include a cover letter, your CV, your research proposal (approx 1 page), list of publications, and 3 written references.

Applications will be assessed on the basis of scientific merit, in terms of scientific excellence and your ability to contribute to your field, and overall relevance, balance and integrative potential with our current research projects.

Please visit www.idiap.ch/fellowship.html for further details.



Interested candidates should go to www.idiap.ch/fellowship.html for more details.
Please contact Jo Moore (schulz@idiap.ch) or Pierre Wellner (wellner@idiap.ch) for additional information.

IDIAP Research Institute Rue du Simplon 4, CH-1920 Martigny. Tel: +41 27 721 77 11 Fax: +41 27 721 77 12 info@idiap.ch www.idiap.ch