

# CHAIRS' WELCOME

The 15th International Society of Scientometrics and Informetrics Conference took place at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, from June 29 to July 4, 2015. The Conference was jointly organised by Boğaziçi University, Hacettepe University, and the TÜBİTAK ULAKBİM (Turkish Academic Network and Information Center – The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) under the auspices of ISSI – the International Society for Scientometrics and Informetrics.

The ISSI biennial conference is the premier international forum for scientists, research managers, authorities and information professionals to discuss the current status and progress in informetric and scientometric theories, concepts, tools, platforms, and indicators. In addition to theoretical and quantitative focus of the conference, the participants had the opportunity to discuss practical, cross-cultural, and multi-disciplinary aspects of information and library science, R&D-management, and science ethics, among other related topics.

The focus theme of ISSI2015 was “**the future of scientometrics**”. Scientometrics and informetrics together represent a broad field with a rich history. Scientometrics has been responsible for creating tools for research assessment and evaluation, as well as for use in charting the flow of scientific ideas and people. Today, with the advancements of computing power, technology, and database management systems, the impact of scientometrics has become ubiquitous for scientists and science policy makers. However, the high diffusion of scientometric and informetric research has also brought a new wave of criticism and concern, as people grapple with issues of goal displacement and inappropriate use of indicators. The question facing the field is how best to move forward given the computational opportunities and the sociological concerns. Therefore, the goal of ISSI2015 was to highlight the best research in this field and to bring together scholars and practitioners in the area to discuss new research directions, methods, and theories, and to reflect upon the history of scientometrics and its implications.

The keynote given by Loet Leydesdorff demonstrated the potential of thinking of science as a complex institution. By building on the Triple Helix Model of University-Industry-Government relations, Dr. Leydesdorff showed that innovation systems can provide institutional mediation between knowledge production, wealth generation, and governance.

The second keynote, by Kevin Boyack, directly answered the challenge of the focus theme of ISSI2015, and proposed several opportunities to expand the field of scientometrics. Dr. Boyack called for increasing attention to funding, workforce, data and instrumentation, research objects, and innovation.

The conference included four special sessions on a range of topics, including performance indicators, algorithms for topic detection, empirical evaluation of education, research and innovation, and how scientometrics can be used to improve and inform university rankings. These special sessions included poster presentations, panel discussions, invited speakers, and public debates.

The increasing number of open-source software for scientometrics presents great opportunities for researchers. Four tutorials, organized on the first day of the conference, aimed to introduce a number of tools in depth: open source data analysis and visualization tools, citation exploration software, measurement of scholarly impact, and on social network analysis with the popular R software.

The Doctoral Forum, organized by Andrea Scharnhorst and Judit Bar-Ilan, is a meeting of senior researchers and selected doctoral students for presenting and discussing research projects and an

excellent way for students of getting valuable feedback, along with strong networking opportunities. This is the sixth ISSI Doctoral Forum and we are extremely happy about the interest it continues to receive from the community. Additionally, the prestigious Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship is given by the Eugene Garfield Foundation.

During the Conference, the Derek de Solla Price Award of the International Journal Scientometrics was given to Mike Thelwall, Professor of Information Science at the University of Wolverhampton (UK), in a special session organized for this purpose. This award recognizes excellence through outstanding, sustained career achievements in the field of quantitative studies of science and their applications.

The satellite workshops of the conference reflected the diversity of the field. In **“Mining Scientific Papers: Computational Linguistics and Bibliometrics”**, researchers in bibliometrics and computational linguistics were brought together to study the ways bibliometrics can benefit from large-scale text analytics and sense mining of scientific papers, thus exploring the interdisciplinarity of Bibliometrics and Natural Language Processing. The workshop on **“Grand challenges in data integration for research and innovation policy”** dealt with problems of big, open and linked data. The **“Forecasting science: Models of science and technology dynamics for innovation policy”** workshop discussed methodology for predicting the circumstances leading to scientific or technological innovation. **“Workshop on Bibliometrics Education”** brought together educational institutions, employers, professional societies, and Bibliometrics researchers and professionals to tackle this problem. Finally, **“Google Scholar and related products”** was a highly interactive workshop on the benefits and limitations of some of the most important citation tools.

All contributions for the conference were evaluated by at least two reviewers of the Scientific Program Committee. The papers that required additional reviews were discussed by the Program Chairs before a decision was reached. From 228 full and research in progress paper submissions, 123 papers were accepted for publication (54 percent acceptance rate). 82 of these papers were full papers, and 41 were research in progress. There was a large number of paper submissions on social media, technology transfer, science policy and research assessment. From 123 poster and ignite talk submissions, 68 posters and 13 ignite talks were accepted (66 percent). The ignite talks were to increase discussion of underrepresented topics and novel ideas. Because of the large number of papers, and to allow proper discussion for each paper, four parallel sessions were implemented. Several poster sessions were organized, each containing a relatively manageable number of posters. The conference brought together researchers from 42 countries and the works of 458 researchers were presented.

We thank all our contributors for their submissions, the members of the Organizing Committee for their work, the Scientific Program Committee for their reviewing effort, the ISSI board for their trust and guidance, the Rectorate and the Faculty of Engineering of Boğaziçi University for their constant assistance and support, as well as the sponsors for their generous financial contributions. We particularly thank Metin Tunç (Thomson Reuters), Elif Gürses (formerly of TÜBİTAK ULAKBİM), Juan Gorraiz (Universitat Wien), Figen Atalan (Boğaziçi University), Orçun Madran (Hacettepe University) and Büşra Şahin (DEKON Congress & Tourism) for their help in organizing ISSI2015.

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