AFIRM: ACM SIGIR/SIGKDD Africa Summer School on Machine Learning for Data Mining and Search
27 - 31 January 2020, Cape Town, South Africa
http://sigir.org/afirm2020
Deadline for application to participate and for funding: 20 September 2019

Call for Participation

We invite African students and researchers to participate in the 2nd Africa Summer School on Machine Learning for Data Mining and Search, sponsored by ACM SIGIR and SIGKDD, hosted at the University of Cape Town, and presented by leading international researchers.

The mission of the school is to enable students to learn about modern research challenges and methods in information retrieval and data mining; to stimulate scientific research and collaboration in these fields; and to grow a community of researchers, students, and industry professionals working on information retrieval and data mining across Africa with collaborations all around the world.

The target audience is junior faculty from institutions across Africa and advanced graduate students in Africa, with the vision that attendees take their new insights back to their home institutions to grow a vibrant research community in information retrieval and data mining. Some travel grants will be awarded to encourage participants who may not otherwise be able to attend.

The workshop will offer a week of lectures and labs for an audience of up to 50 students. Each day will centre around a broad theme in information retrieval and data mining and consist of lectures on aspects of that theme and hands-on lab time. The program will also include keynote addresses, panels, poster sessions and social events.

The preliminary programme covers the following topics:
Introduction to Information Retrieval (IR)
Introduction to Data Mining and Fairness
Evaluation techniques
Learning to rank for IR
Crowdsourcing for Language and Multimedia Research
Fact checking
Explainable machine learning

The tentative list of speakers (to be confirmed) includes: Ricardo Baeza-Yates, Daniel Campos, Charles Clarke, Nick Craswell, Maria Eskevich, Nicola Ferro, Fosca Giannotti, Lee Giles, Gareth Jones, Madian Kabsa, Maria Maistro, Stan Matwin, Bhaskar Mitra, Axel-Cyrille Ngonga Ngomo, Dino Pedreschi, Andreas Rauber, Luis Torgo, Kyle Williams, Jian Wu, and Emine Yilmaz.

Logistics:
* Registration costs are 100 US dollars per person.
* You are responsible for your own travel and accommodation arrangements. Travel, accommodation and venue details are available on the website.
* Participants will be invited to bring along a research poster to discuss their research with peers and instructors.

Registration instructions:
* Because of limited space, all participants will need to first go through a selection process.
* To apply to participate in the Summer School, please complete the online application form at: https://forms.gle/44q6T4sNEun9H5D57
* We have a limited number of scholarships / travel grants available. The application to participate includes a section where you may apply for this. All such applications must be submitted as part of the single application to participate.

Queries:
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