

**REPORT ON REPORT ON DCFS 2017:  
19TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
DESCRIPTIVE COMPLEXITY OF FORMAL SYSTEMS  
MILANO, ITALY, JULY 3–5, 2017**

**STAVROS KONSTANTINIDIS  
SAINT MARY’S UNIVERSITY, HALIFAX, CANADA**

The 19th International Conference on Descriptive Complexity of Formal Systems was held at the University of Milan (Università degli Studi di Milano) Italy. It was organized jointly by the IFIP Working Group 1.02 on Descriptive Complexity, and by the department of Computer Science (Dipartimento di Informatica) of the University of Milan. It took place a few days after the Conference on Implementation and Application of Automata (CIAA) in Paris. The organizing committee consisted of Giovanna Janet Lavado, Giovanni Pighizzini, and Luca Pri-gioniero. The proceedings volume was edited by Giovanni Pighizzini and Cezar Câmpeanu and published by Springer as volume 10316 in the series *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*. Full versions of selected papers will be published in a special issue of the *International Journal of Foundations of Computer Science*.



DCFS 2017 group photo – Upper Town of Bergamo

There were 24 presentations of research papers: 20 of peer reviewed papers plus 4 of invited authors. The 24 papers were written by 51 authors from 20 countries: Austria, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Latvia, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA. The four invited talks were as follows.

- Jürgen Dassow of Otto von Guericke University, Germany: Descriptive Complexity and Operations, two Non-Classical Cases
- Dora Giammarresi of Rome Tor Vergata University, Italy: Avoiding Overlaps in Pictures
- Stavros Konstantinidis of Saint Mary's University, Canada: Applications of Transducers in Independent Languages, Word Distances, Codes
- Orna Kupferman of The Hebrew University, Israel: Sensing as a Complexity Measure

The Business meeting of IFIP WG 1.02 took place on July 3 after the last talk of the day. Giovanni Pighizzini chaired the meeting, in his capacity as the Chair of WG 1.02. The main highlights of that meeting are the following.

- Giovanni announced the recommendation of the WG 1.02 members that Martin Kutrib of Universität Giessen will be the new Chair of WG 1.02 for the next three years.
- Bianca Truthe, on behalf of the participants, honoured Jürgen Dassow as one of the founding persons of DCFS. This series of conferences has provided an international sustained academic venue for the dissemination of high quality technical research.
- Rogério Reis presented to Janusz Brzozowski the first copy of a collection volume (World Scientific Publishing) in honour of Janusz. The decision to produce this volume was made during the July 2015 event in Waterloo, Canada, for the 80th birthday of Janusz.
- As the organizer of the next DCFS in Halifax, Canada, I gave a presentation with information about DCFS 2018 (possible dates, venue, accommodation, travel routes, attractions).

On the social side of the conference, first there was a welcome party on the evening of July 3 at Belluccio's Ristorante, which involved a rich buffet and plenty of wine. Then, the main social event took place on July 4. It involved going to the Upper Town of Bergamo, walking through the historical center, visiting a few

churches and historic buildings, and having a magnificent dinner at the Il Pianone restaurant on the top of a hill with amazing views of Bergamo.

I believe all the participants enjoyed the event very much, both professionally and socially. We are all thankful to everyone who made this a successful event, and in particular the local organizers. As the organizer of the next DCFS in Halifax, Canada, I wish to invite all readers of this report to consider participating in *DCFS 2018* (and also in *CIAA 2018*, as these two conferences will take place close to each other, in terms of both time and location).