

It was our pleasure to welcome you to the 2016 IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing, held at the University of Cambridge, UK. For 2016, the conference had a special theme, on which submissions were particularly encouraged: Tools and Techniques for Early Stage Problem Formulation.

For VL/HCC 2016 we have assembled an excellent technical program, and the colocation with Psychology of Programming (PPIG) 2016 offered even more opportunities to attend high-quality research presentations.

Two highlights of this year's program were the keynote addresses delivered by renowned researchers. The first talk was delivered by David Dernie, an architect and academic: key to his work is the practice of drawing, and questions of materials, colour and representation in architecture. His work focuses on drawings and creative thinking at the early stages of architectural design, reflecting the special theme for 2016. The second keynote was delivered by Michael Kölling, a Professor at the School of Computing, University of Kent, in Canterbury, UK. Michael's research interests are in the areas of object-oriented systems, programming languages, software tools, computing education and HCI.

VL/HCC 2016 received 45 full paper submissions from authors spanning 21 countries. These papers were anonymously and independently reviewed, typically by three members of the Program Committee. The initial reviewing phase was followed by round of discussions amongst the Program Committee and Program Chairs, before the authors were invited to submit rebuttals.

To ensure a high quality program, the rebuttals were discussed by the reviewers, leading to their final recommendations. At the end of this process, the Program Chairs selected 15 full papers, giving a competitive acceptance rate of 33%. A further 13 of the full papers were accepted in the short paper category, alongside 5 papers submitted in the short paper category. The technical program was rounded off with showpieces and a graduate symposium.

As with any major organizational task, a lot of people have contributed to the success of VL/HCC 2016. We would particularly like to thank the members of the Program Committee for their expert reviews and for their excellent engagement with the two discussion phases. We would also like to thank the following individuals: Peter Rodgers who was Finance Chair, the Publicity Chair Alessio Malizia, the Graduate Consortium Chair Anita Sarma, the Showpieces Chair Advait Sarkar, the Publications Chair Peter Chapman, and the Social Media Chair Scott Fleming. We are also grateful to the VL/HCC Steering Committee for their support with the conference organisation.

We hope that you found the conference exciting and stimulating.

Alan Blackwell  
General Chair

Beryl Plimmer and Gem Stapleton  
Program Co-Chairs