

providing participants with an opportunity to gain critical and in-depth feedback on their research ideas or projects.

The SIGCSE Doctoral Consortium will be held the day before the conference. Students accepted for the consortium will participate in an all-day workshop conducted by prominent leaders in the computing education research community. Participants will also present their work at the conference in a dedicated poster session.

In addition to the scheduled activities, we invite proposals for other activities, such as workshops, to be held prior to or after ICER. If you have an idea for an activity that you would like to propose, please contact Ari Korhonen ([Ari.Korhonen@aalto.fi](mailto:Ari.Korhonen@aalto.fi)) or Lauri Malmi ([Lauri.Malmi@aalto.fi](mailto:Lauri.Malmi@aalto.fi)).

Espoo is the second largest city in Finland and is located next to the capital city of Helsinki. The transport connections from the airport and the centre of Helsinki to Espoo are excellent. Espoo is a centre of international company headquarters and high-technology businesses, at the heart of which stands the Aalto University campus. Many commute daily to Espoo from the neighbouring municipalities in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. Large natural areas are characteristic of Espoo: seashores, the archipelago, the wilderness in nature reserves and the waterways of the lake highlands. The cultural landscapes, constructed environments and natural areas of Espoo are like Finland in miniature.

We look forward to seeing you in Espoo in August!

## **Koli Calling 2017 Conference Report**

**By Calkin Suero Montero and Mike Joy**

The Koli Calling International Conference on Computing Education Research is a single-track conference dedicated to publishing high quality work in all areas of teaching and learning in the computing disciplines. The 17th Koli Calling was held in November 2017, as per tradition, in the Koli National Park in Finland, organized by the University of Eastern Finland and the University of Warwick, UK. At the time of the conference every year, the national park is filled with white beautiful snow adding a mystical character to the iconic panoramic view from top of the Ukko-Koli hill. The quietly cold temperatures of the season are perfectly balanced by the lively and warm atmosphere of the conference.

The 17th conference saw all-time record numbers of submissions and attendances (35% increase compared to 2016), with participants joining the conference from as far afield as New Zealand and South Africa. The keynote address, “What can we learn about teaching from MOOCs?” by Professor Katrina Falkner, was a highlight of the conference. The speech took the audience through an exploration of the translation of established pedagogical practices into MOOC environments as well as the potential and wealth hidden in the analysis of students’ data available in the MOOC platforms.

The conference had a full but very lively and interactive program, seeing for the first time Guerrilla Poster Presentations, a different way of attracting the audience to the posters session, where the speakers surprised the audience by standing up and delivering their 1-minute pitch presentation from the place where they were anywhere in the auditorium. The program also included a pop-up hands-on workshop on digital fabrication and pedagogical

methodologies of the eCraft2Learn project<sup>1</sup>, where the audience participated in the physical creation and programming of a lighthouse. These activities facilitated networking, idea exchange, and community building among all participants.

Although the conference had a strong Computational Thinking flavour this year, with a 2-day doctoral consortium on the topic prior the main conference, the paper and poster presentations also covered a variety of interesting topics. These topics included teaching and learning programming; program design; affect and emotion expression in computer science and while programming; reflection, feedback and assessment; program plagiarism; and visualisation tools. The following presented work deserve special mention:

- The Best Paper award was received by Francisco Enrique Vicente Castro and Kathi Fisler for their work “*Designing a Multi-Faceted SOLO Taxonomy to Track Program Design Skills Through an Entire Course*” ([doi>10.1145/3141880.3141891](https://doi.org/10.1145/3141880.3141891)). This paper brings forward our understanding of how students learn to program through the development and deployment of a new SOLO-like taxonomy that operates at a course level.
- The Best Presentation award went to Juho Leinonen and Arto Hellas for their presentation of their paper “*Thought Crimes and Profanities whilst Programming*” ([doi>10.1145/3141880.3141902](https://doi.org/10.1145/3141880.3141902)). Their work takes us through an analysis of how, why and when students include swear words in their programming assignments.
- The Best Poster award went to Josina I. Koning, Hylke H. Faber and Menno D.M. Wierdsma for their poster “*Introducing*

*Computational Thinking to 5 and 6 year old students in Dutch primary schools; an educational design research study*” ([doi>10.1145/3141880.3141908](https://doi.org/10.1145/3141880.3141908)). This is an exploratory study of how 5 and 6-year-old children develop computational thinking concepts, and what primary school teachers need to know in order to support them.

As per tradition, the conference allowed time for exploring the Koli National Park with a guided excursion to the Ukko-Koli hill through snowy trails, as well as relaxing spa and sauna visits for networking and socialising each evening of the conference.

The Koli Calling conference is a truly special event with a perfect combination of high quality research presentations, interactive sessions and social programs. We welcome you to Koli Calling 2018 in November!



Koli Calling 2017 participants at the Ukko-Koli panoramic view point. Photo by André Santos



Koli Calling 2017 participants during hands-on pop-up workshop. Photos by Ilkka Jormanainen

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<sup>1</sup> <https://project.ecraft2learn.eu/>