

## **Dear Cognitive Scientists:**

Welcome to the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society! It is a great pleasure to welcome you at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. CogSci 2013's theme is "Cooperative Minds: Social Interaction and Group Dynamics." This theme reflects a rapidly growing interest within the cognitive science community in human sociality that has led to a move from the study of individual cognition to the social realm. The conference offers an exciting program with five plenary talks by distinguished speakers and three invited symposia with highly renowned contributors. But CogSci is also a platform for young scientists and you will likely be impressed by the high quality of research our junior colleagues will present at this conference.

The competition for oral presentations was extremely strong this year since we received more submissions than ever in the history of this conference. After the system was closed we counted 1246 submissions, including 910 full-papers, 269 member abstracts, 34 symposium proposals, 23 proposals for workshops/tutorials, and 10 publication-based talks. The quantity and – even more so – the high quality of the submissions indicate that our discipline is in good shape. After intensive reviewing we accepted 264 (28%) of the full-paper submissions as oral presentations and 379 (40%) as posters. We also accepted 247 (91%) member abstracts as posters, 25 (73%) symposia and 18 (82%) workshops/tutorials. In a second round, we accepted an additional number of 77 (99 %) member abstracts as posters. This large amount of presentations was possible only by adding parallel tracks and introducing a new program structure to accommodate more poster presentations. So: Welcome to the largest conference in the history of the Cognitive Science Society.

The outstanding interest in this year's conference might also be related to our venue. Berlin is a city with an eventful history and certainly one of the liveliest metropolises in Europe. It is a city of contrasts with a countless variety of world renowned cultural highlights and attractions that we hope you will enjoy exploring. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin is one of Berlin's four universities. Until the Reunification of Germany in 1989, Humboldt-Universität was the most important University in East Germany; since then it has established itself as one of Germany's leading research universities. The University is located in the heart of the city, in walking distance to many historical and contemporary sites of interest. The Brandenburg Gate, for instance, is just a few minutes away from the conference site.

We believe that a university-based conference in the urban center of Berlin will be a unique experience for all of us. Certain things might not be the way they usually are at a hotel-based conference. You may have to walk a bit more; some of the lecture rooms still have a historic aura from

the times when Helmholtz, Hegel, Einstein, and other famous scientists gave their lectures here - so the seats may be a bit uncomfortable. And it might happen that not all participants will fit into the main lecture hall (Audimax) during the plenary sessions. The conference co-chairs initially planned to rent a non-university building in the neighborhood but it turned out that this would exceed the budget. So we decided to use the cinema (Kinosaal) right below the main lecture hall as an overflow area where the presentations can be seen on a video screen. The poster sessions will take place in the Maritim Hotel Berlin in the Friedrichstraße, one of the most liveliest streets in Berlin. It's just a ten minutes walk, but you may want to calculate your time to walk there generously since there is a lot to see on your way.

We are in the semester break at Humboldt-Universität but there will still be many students and faculty in the building. So you are invited to enjoy the specific atmosphere of a University that about two hundred years ago, in 1810, implemented Wilhelm von Humboldt's vision of a new type of university. Humboldt-Universität was the first to introduce the unity of research and teaching, to uphold the ideal of research without restrictions, and to provide an all-round education for its students. These principles of Wilhelm von Humboldt became general practice throughout the world. A new era of university and academic research had begun.

We hope you will enjoy this unique historic setting and wish you all an unforgettable conference at Humboldt-Universität as well as a great time in Berlin!

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