

**UMAP 2019 theory, reflection, and opinion track
Chairs' welcome and overview**

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UMAP 2019 Theory, Reflection, and Opinion Track: Chairs' Welcome and Overview

ACM UMAP - User Modelling, Adaptation and Personalization is the premier international conference for researchers and practitioners working on systems that adapt to individual users, to groups of users, and that collect, represent, and model user information. The Theory, Opinion and Reflection (TOR) track at UMAP is designed to highlight emerging areas of inquiry in UMAP and to promote discussion of potentially visionary ideas.

The TOR tradition began with UMAP 2016 and has flourished ever since. The TOR track includes a select number of position papers that critically look at ongoing and emerging research topics, reflections on persistent or fleeting trends in the field, and blue sky future ideas for UMAP research. They offer an opportunity for discussing thought-provoking work relevant to the UMAP community, albeit not yet ready to be published as full length research papers at a refereed conference.

TOR authors are provided an opportunity to make a brief presentation at the end of a plenary session. The presentations are designed to guide an informal discussion of the presented questions and issues during the subsequent food and coffee breaks.

This year the TOR track received a number of submissions encompassing a wide array of topics. The submissions covered topic such as guidelines for user modeling, technology-facilitated societal consensus, human-agent interaction for space exploration, explanation in conversational recommender systems, the role of human cognitive biases in personalization, multi-entity sequential recommendation, and evaluation of group recommender systems.

The submissions were reviewed by the TOR Track co-chairs as well as the UMAP 2019 PC Chairs. There was a consensus that all of the submissions raised interesting and important issues for the UMAP community. Three submissions particularly stood out because they either represented unique and unexplored ideas, or raised novel questions whose exploration could lead to new understandings in UMAP research. These three accepted position papers are listed below:

- *Timotheus Kampik and Amro Najjar: **Technology-facilitated Societal Consensus***
- *Ariel Rosenfeld: **Human-Agent Interaction for Human Space Exploration***
- *Georgios Theodorou, Jennifer Healey, Sridhar Mahadevan and Michele Saad: **Personalizing with Human Cognitive Biases***

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