

# **International Workshop Knowledge Acquisition from the Social Web (KASW'08)**

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With the advent of the "Social Web", a new breed of web applications has enriched the social dimension of the web. On the social web, actors can be understood as social agents -technological or human entities- that collaborate, pursue goals, are autonomous, and are capable of exhibiting flexible problem solving and social behaviour. By participating in the social web, both technological and human agents leave complex traces of social interactions and their motivations behind, which can be studied, analyzed and utilized for a range of different purposes. The broad availability and open accessibility of these traces in social web corpora, such as in del.icio.us, Wikipedia, weblogs and others, provides researchers with opportunities for, for example, novel knowledge acquisition techniques and strategies, as well as large scale, empirically coupled "in the field" studies of social processes and structures.

This workshop aims to develop and bring together a diverse community of researchers interested in the social web and in understanding and evaluating the role of agents, goals, structures, concepts, context, knowledge and social interactions in a broad range of social web applications. Examples for such applications include, but are not limited to social authoring (e.g. wikis, weblogs), social sharing (e.g. del.icio.us, flickr), social networking (Facebook, LinkedIn) and social searching (e.g. wikia, eureka, mahalo) applications.

Recent problems of social network analysis are addressed by the contribution "Mining Socio-Semantic Networks Using Spreading Activation Technique" by Trousov, Sogrin, Judge, and Botvich (full paper). The aspect of information visualization in Social Web environments is considered in the full paper "Visualizing Dynamics in Virtual Information Spaces" by Mueller and Kroeger. The role of Blogs for

knowledge representation and acquisition is addressed by the position paper "Envisioning With Weblogs" by Gordon and Swanson. The position paper "Using Visual Features to Improve Tag Suggestions in Image Sharing Sites" by Lux, Marques, and Pitman, as well as the demo contribution "Harnessing Wikipedia for Smart Tags Clustering" by Grineva, Grinev, Turdakov, and Velikhov consider various aspects of knowledge-based tag recommendation for social content sharing environments.

The workshop KASW'08 is co-located with the Innovations Conference for Knowledge Management, New Media Technology and Semantic Systems (TRIPLE-I '08). The workshop program includes an introduction session, two research sessions with presentations of accepted contributions (2 full papers, 2 position papers, 1 demo paper), invited talks, and a round-table discussion on selected topics.

We anticipate that the increasing availability and accessibility of broad, socially-constructed knowledge on the web combined with the emergence of techniques and algorithms to acquire and structure this knowledge will fuel further research on the topics of this workshop. We expect that knowledge acquired from social web corpora can have deep implications for current research on ontology learning, common sense knowledge acquisition, the design of social web applications and social-focused navigation and search on the web.

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#### Organizers

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- Sergej Sizov, University of Koblenz-Landau, Germany
- Markus Strohmaier, Graz University of Technology, Austria

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