EAB Research Projects Conference 2019

The 6th edition of the EAB Research Projects Conference will take place on the 16th, 17th and 18th of September 2019, at the premises of Fraunhofer IGD in Darmstadt, Germany.

Conference report on Identity Week 2019

The Identity Week triple track Conference was held at the London ExCel Center between June 11 and June 13, 2019.

Conference report on IAPR ICB 2019

The 12th IAPR International Conference on Biometrics (ICB 2019) was held on the island of Crete from 04 to 07 June 2019.

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EAB Research Projects Conference 2019

The 6th edition of the EAB Research Projects Conference will take place on the 16th, 17th and 18th of September 2019, at the premises of Fraunhofer IGD in Darmstadt, Germany.

The conference is organized by the European Association on Biometrics (EAB) in cooperation with the Joint Research Center (DG JRC) of the European Commission, through its Cyber and Digital Citizens’ security Unit. The EAB-RPC 2019 will be co-located with the EAB Research Award and the IEEE BIOSIG Conference, later that same week. The conference is currently the largest event on European research in the area of Biometrics and Identity Management.

Over the previous five successful editions, EAB-RPC has become the main forum in Europe where attendees can simultaneously:

- promote research carried out in biometrics
- forge new links and networks, and
- identify the appropriate partners for possible future project applications.

Last year’s edition welcomed over 100 participants from academia, industry and public institutions. The keynote talks at the conference will include Richard Rinkens (DG Home) “Implications of the Interoperability Regulations”

For further information on the conference, a detailed agenda, or to register to the event, please visit the dedicated website: https://www.eab.org/events/program/177

If you would like your European-funded project to participate in the conference please contact the Conference Chair: javier.galbally@ec.europa.eu
Conference report on Identity Week 2019

The Identity Week triple track Conference was held at the London ExCel Center between June 11 and June 13, 2019.

It was chaired by Mark Lockie form the Terrapin organization, and gathered more than 2,800 visitors. The event included a large single space exhibition of major technology and solution vendors in each of the 3 tracks: SDW 2019, Digital ID 2019, and Planet Biometrics 2019.

Parallel conferences were run with a mix of speakers’ presentations and open discussion panels on many hot topics. While the triple conference tracks and 14 industry-run round tables were reserved for subscribing delegates, additional links between the industry and visitors were favored by two free-access theaters run in hot subject highlighted in parallel within the exhibition area. The organizers’ choice was to broaden the realm of SDW, the original Secure Document World, to both the ubiquitous digital transformation of the industry and to the development of large scale biometrics–savvy projects.

EAB as a partner of the Identity Week event

EAB was very pleased to act as an official partner of the Identity Week during the event, and did actively participate in it. Many distinguished EAB members from both academia and the industry were invited as speakers, panelists or even moderators in the various tracks. In particular, EAB’s CEO did moderate a fair portion of the event’s Planet Biometrics track, which focused on specific application areas where Biometrics takes an active role in enhancing ID security.

Conference report on IAPR ICB 2019

The 12th IAPR International Conference on Biometrics (ICB 2019) was held on the island of Crete from 04 to 07 June 2019.

The ICB conference is the premier forum for the presentation of new advances and research in biometrics. This year the conference was for the held in Greece. The conference included 88 paper presentations and three keynote talks.

The 15th ICAO TRIP (Traveler Identification Program) Symposium and Exhibition took place at ICAO’s headquarters between June 25 and June 28, 2019. It gathered over 600 delegates participating from 92 countries.

The 15th ICAO TRIP Symposium and Exhibition in a nutshell

Dozens of exhibitors did provide live demonstrations at their booths. Some of them did also contribute via “Skytalks” presentations of their services, on top of all speakers’ delegates timed presentations, which were all distilled across the various sessions composing the Symposium agenda.

This year’s Symposium theme was centered on “Bridging the physical–digital document divide” with the following 8 sessions, in which 36 speakers were guided through their delivery by their respective moderators. The speakers delivered a detailed analysis and state of play of challenges and objectives ahead in their TRIP-related specialty. The various successful use cases reported ought to be used to guide new countries’ projects to their successful own implementation of the TRIP:

- Session 1 – recent developments in the ICAO TRIP strategy,
- Session 2 – importance of innovation in Border Management (updates from stakeholders & International Organizations),
- Session 3 – supporting improved national Identity Management practices,
- Session 4 – ICAO MRTD standards and specifications: travel document integrity,
- Session 5 – identification of travelers & risk assessment; developing API & PNR,
- Session 6 – API: implementation by States,
- Session 7 – border control: inspection systems tools & interoperable applications,
- Session 8 – steps forward in facilitation and identification.

EAB was tasked to moderate a session of the TRIP Symposium

EAB was tasked to moderate Session 7 of the TRIP Symposium, dedicated to Border Control, and focused on the dos and don’ts of e-Passports, inspection systems and coordinated stakeholders data base accesses.

Mr. Barry Kefauver delivered an extremely precious slide compendium about cardinal reasons for a country to consider selecting an e-MRTD scheme. He reviewed the main soul-searching country challenges and the sanity checks to be considered at each of the various decision and implementation steps, from enrolment to deployment, administration, quality control and field usage.

The link with the next speaker’s focus on inspection systems came through easily with the strong case in point presented by Mrs. Esther Fernandez Crespo on the deployment of the Spanish NPKD, where the speaker’s perspective was reinforced by her own knowledgeability status as VP of the ICOA PKD.

The contribution of ongoing efforts of Interpol to enlarge the current use of air carriers’ API (Advance Passenger Information) was aptly discussed by the third speaker, Mrs. Maria Tibulca.

Such API deal with the passengers’ biographic passport data transmission to the proper destination country’s Immigration, Border Police and/or Customs services. A practical solution would be to mandate a DB query to Interpol’s existing SLTD (Stolen and Lost Travel Documents) DB as early as possible in the journey (i.e. as part of the API early transmission) to systematically combat the use stolen Travel Documents during ID verification prior to reaching an airport to initiate one’s flight.

The 3 global take-home messages from this session are interlinked. They all revolve around the necessity to positively identify the person of interest at a given border crossing step, namely though one of ICAO’s Biometrics of choice.

To be more precise, each of the 3 speakers essentially filled in, in succession, the 3 main layers which need to be jointly and securely activated for a border management process to be successful in adequate biometric ID verifications:
On the document level, related challenges include, for example, face morphing. This observation links, in fact, with Session 4 of the event, about Travel Document integrity, a presentation of which describe an EU-sponsored research in which several EAB members happened to have actively participated.

On the inspection-system level, all potential benefits derived from the use of PKD must be mutualized: there are still not enough ICAO Member States participants that provide, as PKD members, CSCAs to document the PKD directory, and even less of them that willingly deliver CRLs (i.e. lists of revoked certificates issued by their own country). These CRLs would be indispensable to reveal – without any doubt – any rogue documents, should such certificates be identified during an inbound (arrival) border control verification by the receiving country.

Last but not least, on the stakeholder cooperation level, a call for action was emitted. It is in line with several alerts set during the other Symposium’s sessions. The present specific call for action is to develop overlapping stakeholders’ efforts inclusive of current security gaps, to largely increase the list of Member States currently deploying API (around 67 countries) and PNR programs (around 30 countries) worldwide. A practical example linking Frontex and Interpol’s efforts along that line was reported to conclude this presentation and the session.

Overall: an informative breakthrough thanks to ICAO

A new conference deliverable was launched by the Master of Ceremony and successfully put to work across all Symposium’s days, thanks to which live streaming of the entire event was generated and made available to the public thanks to one of the exhibition’s contributing suppliers. As a direct result of it, you can now freely access and play (or replay, if you attended the event!) each and all of the 8 sessions at the following url: https://www.unitingaviation.com/strategic-objective/security-facilitation/live-streaming-icaos-fifteenth-symposium-on-the-icao-traveller-identification-programme/

And that includes Session 7, which was moderated by EAB.

Conclusion: a call for action also for EAB!

We would like to thank the ICAO organizing tem for the opportunity to be part of the 15th TRIP Symposium event. As EAB, our delegates present at the Symposium were pleased to be, once again, part of ICAO’s efforts to join forces and further cross-link and exchange with our colleagues from the Air Transportation community to further strengthen border management and aviation security practices above and beyond their present level.

It will take some time for all of us to reach consensus on a more advance level of interoperable standards. It will take time as well before solving current Biometrics challenges in proper digital ID management, a task EAB feels strongly attached to. But it will take even more valuable time and efforts from Member States and their respective stakeholders to broaden the scope of international large-scale project deployments for harmonized border and risk-assessment processes.

As a conclusion, the strong impact of the digital transformation on potential new mobile digital ID credentials (e.g. the DTC, Digital Travel Credential) should finally be underlined. Its specifications are currently under advanced elaboration thanks to ICAO’s and ISO’s efforts. This is becoming a topic of strong and long-lasting objective that EAB members already are – and will even be more – eager to join in the near future.


EAB Biometric News, June 30, 2019

Call for Papers: IJCB 2020

The 2020 International Joint Conference on Biometrics (IJCB 2020) combines two major biometrics research conferences, the Biometrics Theory, Applications and Systems (BTAS) conference and the International Conference on Biometrics (ICB).

The blending of these two conferences in 2020 is through a special agreement between the IEEE Biometrics Council and the IAPR TC–4, and should present an exciting event for the entire worldwide biometrics research community.

The technical program of IJCB 2020 is intended to have a broad scope, including advances in fundamental techniques relevant to biometrics, new algorithms and / or technologies for biometrics, analysis of specific applications, forensic science, and analysis of the social impact of biometrics technology along with identity aspect in behavior analysis.

Paper submissions may be up to eight pages with additional pages of references in IEEE conference format.

You can find more information about IJCB and the Call for Papers at: https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/ijcb2020
EAB Biometric News, June 30, 2019

**Frontex Conference on Morphing on 9–10 October**

Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, is organising a conference dedicated to the use of biometrics in the context of border control, with this year's thematic focus on morphing and its possible implications for border security.

The conference will take place in Warsaw, Poland on 9–10 October, 2019 and will largely focus on the topic of morphing. The conference will provide a platform for international dialogue by bringing together the law enforcement community that acknowledges morphing as a potential problem, and the research community and industry that are actively developing ways to prevent, detect and/or defeat morphing attacks.

More information on the conference and the [Call for Extended Abstracts](https://frontex.europa.eu/research/invitations/call-for-extended-abstracts-for-the-international-conference-on-biometrics-for-borders-BKZvHx) with a submission deadline of 2019-08-02 can be found at:

EAB Biometric News, June 30, 2019

**Eye Segmentation Challenge**

Facebook has announced a semantic eye segmentation challenge.

In the context of Facebook's work on immersive AR/VR applications they need unprecedented eye tracking performance. Eye tracking must be precise, accurate, and work all the time for every individual. This in turn requires robust pupil and iris segmentation. Thus Facebook has launched a **semantic segmentation challenge**. They are seeking solutions that can segmentation the key eye regions: the sclera, the iris, the pupil, and everything else (background).

The submission deadline is September 15, 2019

You can read more at: [https://research.fb.com/programs/openeds-challenge/](https://research.fb.com/programs/openeds-challenge/)
Prof. Alice J. O’Toole from the University of Texas at Dallas delivered a Distinguished Lecture on Deep Learning and CNN at CRISP, Germany on June 3rd.

The lecture entitled: “Turning a face recognition black box white: Understanding what deep convolutional neural networks learn about faces” covered real-world face recognition applications and its requirements to perceive the uniqueness of a face across multiple, variable images. Deep convolutional neural networks (DCNNs) accomplish this and can be analysed in a multidimensional “face space”. Alice illustrated, how she examined the organization of viewpoint, illumination, gender, and identity in this space. Specifically, we probing a DCNN trained with in-the-wild images with an in-the-lab dataset consisting of rendered images from 3D laser scans of faces. She showed that DCNNs create a highly organized face similarity structure in which identities and images coexist. Natural image variation is organized in this hierarchy, with face identity nested under gender, illumination under identity, and viewpoint under illumination. To examine identity, she caricatured faces and found that identification accuracy increased with caricaturing. Mimicking human perception, DCNN caricature representations “resembled” their veridical counterparts. Caricaturing also minimized illumination and viewpoint representational variation. DCNNs offer a theoretical framework that reconciles decades of behavioral and neural results that emphasized either the image or the object/face in representations, without understanding how a neural code could seamlessly accommodate both.

Recording
The lecture was recorded and will be accessible for EAB-memers at: https://www.eab.org/events/lectures.html

About the keynote speaker
Alice J O’Toole is a Professor at the University of Texas at Dallas in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences. Her research interests include human perception, memory and cognition. In 2007, she was named Aage and Margareta Møller Endowed Professor. She currently serves as an Associate Editor of Psychological Science and the British Journal of Psychology and has served as Program Chair of the 2017 IEEE Meeting on Automatic Face and Gesture Recognition. Alice received a BA in Psychology (1983) from The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, and a MS (1985) and PhD (1988) in Experimental Psychology from Brown University, Providence, RI. Dr. O’Toole has been the recipient of an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship, and has received research funding from NIH, NIMH, DARPA, IARPA, and the National Institute of Justice.
The second edition of the Swedish Biometrics Forum was organized on May 29th at Halmstad University, Sweden.

A total of 15 people registered to the event, including 6 attendants from other parts of Sweden, and 2 from Germany. About 60% of the participants were representing the industry and government agencies. The Swedish Biometrics Forum is an open platform dedicated to regular exchange of information and experience related to the field of Biometrics and Security in Sweden. Dr. Fernando Alonso-Fernandez and Prof. Josef Bigun from Halmstad University welcomed the audience of this meeting. The following speakers presented their projects or related activities in biometrics and security:

- Benjamin Tams, Senior Consultant, Division Homeland Security from secunet Security Networks AG gave the first presentation of the day about the EES (Entry Exit System) to be implemented in the coming years at external EU borders, and about the importance of capturing good quality data for this system.
- Kevin Hernandez-Diaz, PhD student at Halmstad University, presented ongoing work on multispectral periocular biometrics, including verification experiments as well as spectral conversion of images based on deep-learning techniques.
- Nicole Belvisi, Master student of the Network Security program at Halmstad University. She talked about her experiments and results on textual analysis of online text for identity recognition purposes, with a focus on Tweeter post.
- Pelle Viberg, CEO of Rayelligence, spoke about a radar sensor commercialised by the company, with capabilities to measure position of people with millimetre precision. He also presented some application examples with the radar, including counting of people, liveness monitoring (including vital signals acquisition such as respiration or heart rate), and identity.
- After the lunch break, Dr. Lena Klasén, Research Director of the Swedish National Police Authority, gave a talk about applied research at the Swedish Police authority. She illustrated her talk with some case examples of different nature that conform the usual operation of the Swedish Police regarding forensics analysis.
- Johan Karlsson, Senior Research Engineer of Autoliv Research, gave an overview of active occupant monitoring activities of the company, with focus on use cases involving driver and passenger safety, security and comfort.
- The workshop was then closed with a panel session leaded by Prof. Josef Bigun on current research challenges and directions that can constitute project ideas. The session was contributed by all attendants to the forum interactively, where both the speakers and the audience engaged in a conversation. The discussion continued informally among some attendees after the forum was ended at 15h.

The forum concluded asking to the participants about the satisfaction and interest of such meeting being organized on a regular basis. Given the positive answer received, Dr. Fernando Alonso–Fernandez and Prof. Josef Bigun committed to organise a new edition of the forum.
Appointment of Jean Salomon as CEO of EAB

The European Association for Biometrics (EAB) announced today the appointment of Jean Salomon as Chief Executive Officer.

According to EAB’s Chairman Alexander Nouak, “We are pleased to appoint Jean as our new CEO to help pursue an even more cooperative contribution of EAB to the multi-disciplinary evolution of Digital Identity, around and beyond our current position of leading association for Biometrics and Identity in Europe.”

Jean Salomon said: "I'm both honored and challenged by this position, and fully acknowledge the merit of past individual and collective EAB leadership, its breakthroughs and bold achievements. As a past delegate myself, EAB has always been part of my own core association with the biometric industry, acting both as a learning center and a professional forum, enabling privileged exchanges and networking with biometrics-savvy colleagues."

He added: “Our true ambition is to further strengthen the problem-solving capacity of each of our EAB Members in their communities, and also develop collectively proactive links and platforms reaching out to all biometric stakeholders in their quest for a secure development of both European, national and individual Digital Identity schemes”.

Jean concluded: “EAB stakeholders, governments, academia, as well as the surrounding industries, should also thrive together at sustaining and diversifying the use of privacy-by-design biometric processes protecting EU nations’ security, as well as that of their respective citizens, in an even more seamless and law-abiding way”.

EAB’s short- to mid-term ambition and program come at a time the European legislation has finally paved the way for all its Member States to successfully collectively implement their future border security and identity environments. A large scale, secure, biometric-enriched IT portfolio of EU applications will be officially developed around and beyond the EES through a privacy-by-design portfolio of linked biometric and biographic repositories using harmonized efficient cross-linked query systems.

EAB aims at playing a leading role in the sustainability of EU’s evolving best biometric practices. The association is eager to welcome each new individual and collective participation in this endeavor.

About Jean Salomon

After his Ph.D., Jean joined IBM France, then devoted 10 years to Medical Imaging in clinical academic R&D and Product engineering. He spent 20 years with IER, a world leading manufacturer of Transportation Industry equipment securing passenger flows across airports, with special emphasis on border management processes and technologies.

As ISO SC17 and SC37 delegate, he is member of ICAO’s NTWG and ICBWG, focusing on process reengineering in Border Management systems, including harmonization of Biometrics and breeder documents. Since 2008 Jean is Principal at JSCP, a consulting practice solely focused on Travel and Border Security.

Jean took part in several ICAO field assessment missions about Civil Registration in Africa. He served as co-chair of the E.U. FIDELITY’s Advisory Board, and reviewed several FP7 and H2020 proposals. He is a frequent speaker and moderator in large international Transportation Industry Security and Facilitation fora.
EU Entry/Exit System (EES)
EU's External Borders will Become Biometric

As part of the Smart Borders Initiative, the European Parliament has decided to introduce the common biometric EU Entry/Exit System (EES) to register all travellers from third countries.

Therefore, from 2021 onwards, nationals of non-EU countries – so called “Third Country Nationals”, or TCN for short, will have to register with four fingerprints and a facial image when entering Schengen countries through land, sea and air borders. The biometric data will be stored in the EES together with the identity data and other information taken from the travel document. Each data record resembles an electronic stamp (thus replacing the previous manual stamping procedure) and will be used to calculate the legitimate duration of stay within the Schengen area. Once the EES is introduced, it will become much easier to verify whether the permitted duration of a short stay (maximum of 90 days within a 180-day period) is exceeded.

Each state in the Schengen area is responsible for organising and managing its own national border control infrastructure at sea, land and air borders and connecting to the central EES.

To ensure the EES' optimal performance, technical guidelines and standards play an important role. As a matter of fact the German Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) has published various technical guidelines in the area of biometrics and eIDs with regards to EES the following two technical guidelines are of particular importance.

- BSI TR-03121 Biometrics for Public Sector Applications
- BSI TR-03135 Machine Authentication of MRTDs for Public Sector Applications

Both technical guidelines are available as download (free of charge) on the BSI website. Another technical guideline is currently in the works: BSI TR-03156 Public Sector Identity Management in Conjunction with European Registers and Border Control. With regards to biometric quality, ISO/IEC 19794-5 (Facial image) and NFIQ 2.0 (Fingerprint image) are relevant.


Regulation for Interoperability between EU Information Systems

The Official Journal of the European Union has published the Regulation 2019/817 of the European Parliament and the of the Council regarding the establishment for interoperability between EU information system in the field of borders and visa.

Following the Communication 2016 on Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Border and Security the Commission initiated a process towards achieving interoperability between EU information systems for security, border and migration management, with the aim to address the structural shortcomings related to those systems that impede the work of national authorities and to ensure that border guards, customs authorities, police officers and judicial authorities have the necessary information at their disposal. After consultations and discussion over the last two years the Regulation establishing such framework is now published. Read more at: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELLAR%3A17d265c8-7c60-11e9-9f05-01aa75ed71a1](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELLAR%3A17d265c8-7c60-11e9-9f05-01aa75ed71a1)

Conference Report on IEEE FG 2019

The 14th IEEE International Conference on Automatic Face and Gesture Recognition (FG 2019) was held in Lille, France.
Report on Biometrics at ICASSP 2019

ICASSP is the world’s largest and most comprehensive technical conference focused on signal processing and its applications.

The 2019 conference featured world-class presentations by internationally renowned speakers, cutting-edge session topics and provided a fantastic opportunity to network with like-minded professionals from around the world. Over 3000 participants made this year’s event the largest ever ICASSP conference over the past 44 years. During the conference, the world largest international companies and publishers sponsored a number of prestigious awards. In addition, there was a significant record in tutorial registrations as over 1200 people have registered for the tutorial sessions to be held in the first two days of the conference, and many events have been organized, such as Student Luncheons, Women in Signal Processing, and Young Professionals Development Workshop. The IEEE Signal Processing Cup student competition explored the Search & Rescue with Drone–Embedded Sound Source Localization.

Four plenary session placed focus on: “Handling Uncertainty” (by Sir David John Spiegelhalter), an intelligent openness to demonstrate trustworthiness is needed in admitting uncertainty; "Machine Learning at Google" (by Corinna Cortes), an overview of research efforts with recent advantages in federated learning and structured prediction (e.g., to privacy preservation); "Internet of Skills – Where 5G, Robotics and AI Meet" (by Mischa Dohler), the vision, technology and building blocks to an ultra–responsive from content–delivery to skillset–delivery networks; "The 2018 Norbert Wiener Society Award" (by John R. Treichler), a revisit of how radar/sonar technology and research evolved over the past decades with iterations of DARPA (and other) funding cycles resulting in daily use technology; and “40 years of automatic speech recognition: from statistical decision theory to deep learning” (by Hermann Ney), an homage on the world existing before/concurrent to/after deep learning and the experimental results to show how deep learning in particular improved the acoustic and language models of the data–driven approach in a Bayesian decision framework.

Biometrics was well–perceived at the ICASSP 2019, which featured seven sessions dedicated to biometrics, out of which four poster and two lecture sessions were on speaker recognition. Contributions to biometrics were further covered in sessions on Image/Video Processing, Anomaly Detection and Intent Inference in Object Tracking, Multimodal Representation Learning for Language Generation and Understanding, IoT, and Speech Analysis of Extralinguistic Factors. Among the newly elevated IEEE Fellows, Javier Ortega–Garcia (elevated in 2018) was presented for his contributions to biometrics for forensic speaker verification and signature recognition. With the IEEE Ganesh N. Ramaswamy Memorial Student Travel Grant, David Snyder (Johns Hopkins University) was recognized for his work on “Speaker Recognition for Multi-speaker Conversations Using X–vectors”.

Read more at: https://2019.ieeeicassp.org/
ISO/IEC JT1 SC37 Conference in Darmstadt, Germany from July 8 to 12

DIN, the German Institute for Standardization, gladly invites SC 37 to hold its Working Group meetings 2019 in Darmstadt from 08th July to 12th July.

The meetings will be held at Fraunhofer IGD premises in Darmstadt (Fraunhoferstraße 5, 64283 Darmstadt, Germany). One topic to be discussed in Working Group 3 are the comments on the Draft International Standards (DIS):

- ISO/IEC DIS 39794-4 Finger image data (comments due on 2019-05-15)
- ISO/IEC DIS 39794-5 Face image data (comments due on 2019-06-18)

These two standards will soon be promoted to Final Draft International Standard (FDIS), which will be a decision to be taken at the Darmstadt meeting.

Further during the July meeting Working Group 5 will discuss the progress on the revision of ISO/IEC CD 19795-1 (comments due on 2019-05-04). The CD draft standard can be downloaded from:

https://isotc.iso.org/livelink/livelink?func=ll&objId=20294349&objAction=Open&viewType=3

In order to participate in the July conference contact your national standardisation body (and the respective mirror-committee of SC37) – see: https://www.iso.org/members.html

European Criminal Records Information System

The Council approved the Commission’s proposal to create a European Criminal Records Information System on convicted third country nationals.

This central system aims to improve the exchange of criminal records information regarding convicted non-EU-citizens and stateless persons through the existing European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS).

Read more on the decision at:

Read more on ECRIS at: