

Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence 4211

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Symbol Grounding and Beyond

Third International Workshop on the Emergence
and Evolution of Linguistic Communication, EELC 2006
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Proceedings

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Preface

This volume is the collection of papers and abstracts of the Third Annual International Workshop on the Emergence and Evolution of Linguistic Communication (EELCIII), held in Rome from September 30 to October 1, 2006. This workshop was the third in line after previous editions held in Kanazawa (Japan) in 2004 and in Hatfield (UK) in 2005. Although the previous events were published as post-proceedings, this event was the first to have its proceedings published at the workshop. Three types of papers were elicited: full papers, invited full papers and invited abstracts. All full papers were peer-reviewed by the International Programme Committee.

The workshop's focus was on the evolution and emergence of language. This is a fast-growing interdisciplinary research area with researchers coming from disciplines such as anthropology, linguistics, psychology, primatology, neuroscience, cognitive science and computer science. Although most papers focus on evolution, a number of papers focus more on language acquisition. This was highly welcomed, since research on language acquisition (both from psychology and artificial intelligence) is extremely important in gaining insights regarding language evolution and, not least, regarding the theme of this workshop 'Symbol Grounding and Beyond.'

Despite the interdisciplinarity of the field and – in principle – of the EELC series, most contributions stem from computer science (mainly artificial intelligence and artificial life). This is not surprising, because this was also the case in previous workshops and because this workshop was part of the 'Simulation of Adaptive Behavior' conference (SAB 2006), a.k.a. 'From Animals to Animats.'

We would like to thank those involved in the organisation of SAB 2006, especially Stefano Nolfi, for their assistance in organising the workshop, the members of the Programme Committee for their assistance in reviewing the papers, the invited speakers (Peter Gärdenfors, Naoto Iwahashi, Elena Lieven, Deb Roy and Luc Steels) and, of course, all authors of the contributions in this collection.

June 2006

Paul Vogt
Yuuya Sugita
Elio Tuci
Chrystopher Nehaniv

Organisation

EELCIII was organised by the Organising Committee as part of the Simulation of Adaptive Behavior conference.

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