



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

SPIRE 2018

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Strategic Programme for International Research Collaboration

REPORT
SPIRE GRANT 2018

Deadline: October 31st, 2019
Reports have to be sent to FA in ephorte.

I – Information about SPIRE grant holder

Name:	Marija Slavkovik	E-mail:	marija.slavkovik@uib.no
Faculty:	Samfunnsvitenskap	Department:	Institutt for Informasjons- og Medievitenskap

II – SPIRE grant category

Select category for which you applied and received SPIRE grant.

SPIRE International Research Collaboration Grant

III – Start and end dates for SPIRE activity

Start:

(year) 2018

(month) May

End:

(year) 2019

(month) June

IV – Brief report on SPIRE activity (max. 2 pages)

i. Aim (achievement of planned SPIRE activity):

The aim of the grant was to establish an interdisciplinary, international research network that engages in developing the interdisciplinary research area of computational social influence which cross-breeds social network analysis with artificial intelligence (AI). The network focused on developing grant applications, doing joint research on the topic, disseminating results and organise events to support all of the listed activities.

A network of international cooperation has been fostered, the extent and results of which are listed below.

ii. Performance (research, teaching, conference, seminar, workshop etc.)

The following people were involved in the SPIRE activities:

May 2018. [Dr. Louise Dennis](#), lecturer at the University of Liverpool, has visited the department for a week. We did research on the topic of how can model-checking be used to verify properties of social networks?

June 2018. I have visited the ILLC institute at the University of Amsterdam and attended the [Colloquium on Reasoning in Social Context](#) organised by Prof. [Sonja Smets](#).

August 2018. Dr. [Ronald de Haan](#), postdoctoral researcher at the University of Amsterdam, has visited the department for a week. We worked on the problem of making the aggregation of judgments more computationally efficient?

October 2018. [Rasmus K. Rendsvig](#), postdoctoral researcher at the University of Copenhagen, visited the department and gave a talk at the DIGSSCORE Lunch Seminar. We worked on the problem of improving judgment reliability in social networks.

March 2019. [Zoé Christoff](#), postdoctoral researcher at the University of Bayeruth, visited the department for a week and gave a department seminar. We worked on the problem of formal methods for information diffusion, together with Thomas Ågotnes.

June 2019. [Ana Ozaki](#), an assistant professor at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano visited the department for a week and gave a talk at the [AI Agora](#) seminar series.

iii. Outcome (publications, books, project applications etc.)

Published articles:

- Ronald de Haan, Marija Slavkovic: **Answer Set Programming for Judgment Aggregation**. IJCAI 2019: 1668-1674
- [Paolo Galeazzi](#), Rasmus K. Rendsvig, Marija Slavkovic: **Improving Judgment Reliability in Social Networks via Jury Theorems**. LORI 2019: 230-243

Under submission:

- Louise Dennis, Marija Slavkovic: **Model-checking Information Diffusion in Social Networks with PRISM**. ICAART 2020/

In preparation:

- Ana Ozaki, Marija Slavkovic **Learning Recommendations**

Project applications:

- With Louise Dennis we had submitted a Research project to the Leverhulme Foundation (RPG-2019-200). The project was shortlisted for round two, but did not get funding.
- Louise Dennis and Rasmus Rendsvig were partners in a Young Researcher FRINATEK Grant Application to the Norwegian Research Council in 2018 (Application Number: ES570297 Project Number: 263034). The Project got very good scores (6 and A), was rerouted to the IKTPluss Initiative. A project application for an ERC Starting grant was sent with them as collaborators as well (851664). The project was evaluated with a B and rejected.
- Ramsus Rendsvig and the Center for Information and Bubble Studies at the University of Copenhagen are partners in the FETOPEN proposal (Proposal ID: 899357) submitted in September 2018.
- With Sonja Smets we have proposed a workshop “NETREASON: Reasoning about social networks” at the ECAI 2020 conference.

- iv. Benefit (to what extent co-operation with your international partners has been beneficial to you and your department)

Apart from an excellent research collaboration that has already resulted with two joint publications (and two more under way) the opportunity to host the researchers in Bergen has been very beneficial from two aspects. On one hand we introduced UiB as an excellent work environment and the department as a rare place where Media Studies and AI meet. This helps our exposure to future students and colleagues. The former masters student of Sonja Smets, Mina Young Pedersen, just started her PhD under the supervision of Marija Slavkovic, on the topic of the SPIRE grant. Ana Ozaki is a shortlisted candidate for a førsteamanuensis position at the Department of Informatics in Bergen. We hope she will become part of UiB from next year.

The visits have also been instrumental in brainstorming and preparing several grant applications. These have unfortunately, so far, not been successful. However, future grants will be considered and we have learned a lot about how to prepare and pitch ideas from this experience.

- v. Sustainability (plan for continued co-operation with your international partners in the future)

Sonja Smets is currently a Professor II in the Department starting from June 2019. We jointly supervise a masters student from the University of Amsterdam on a topic of the SPIRE grant.

I have visited Ana Ozaki at the Free University of Bozen Bolzano in November 2019 on her invitation. We are continuing the research work.