BPM NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL

Last month, the BPM community celebrated a wonderful conference in Münster, and I would like to thank again Jörg Becker, Armin Stein, Katrin Bergener and all helping hands for their great work!

During the closing session in Münster, I handed over Steering committee chair duties to Jan Mendling. (As we see on the picture, he has already taken responsibilities ;-) There are further changes, Boualem Benatallah, Jörg Desel and Wil van der Aalst will leave the SC to make room for new, younger members, and I will follow suit shortly. Boualem, Jörg and Wil did an outstanding job in developing the conference series, and I thank my dear colleagues for the exceptional work! A special thanks goes to Wil, who is often attributed godfather of
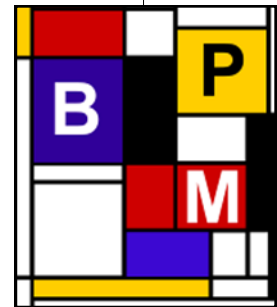

process mining, but first and foremost he is the founder and, if you like, the godfather of the BPM conference series! Thanks Wil, we would not be here without you.

It is now time to take a glimpse into the future. Next year the BPM conference will be organized by the team of Hajo Reijers at Utrecht University. In this newsletter you will find very good reasons to submit your paper to BPM 2023 and to come to Utrecht … beyond Belgian beer.

With this, I thank you for supporting me as chair of the Steering Committee over the years! Happy reading and all the best,

Mathias Weske

1st BPM 2003 Eindhoven

2nd BPM 2004 Potsdam

3rd BPM 2005 Nancy

4th BPM 2006 Vienna

5th BPM 2007 Brisbane

6th BPM 2008 Milan

7th BPM 2009 Ulm

8th BPM 2010 Hoboken

9th BPM 2011 Clermont-Ferrand

10th BPM 2012 Tallinn

11th BPM 2013 Beijing

12th BPM 2014 Haifa/Eindhoven

13th BPM 2015 Innsbruck

14th BPM 2016 Rio de Janeiro

15th BPM 2017 Barcelona

16th BPM 2018 Sydney

17th BPM 2019 Vienna

18th BPM 2020 Seville

19th BPM 2021 Rome

20th BPM 2022 Münster

21th BPM 2023 Utrecht

22th BPM 2024 Krakow

Utrecht University, where BPM 2023 will be held

WELCOME TO BPM 2023 IN UTRECHT!

Utrecht is a bustling city at the very heart of the Netherlands. Visible throughout the city is its major landmark, the Dom tower. It is the tallest church tower in the Netherlands, built at the exact location where once the Traiectum stood, an ancient Roman fort.

Surrounding the Dom tower is a network of canals lined with wharf cellars and terraces that boast numerous restaurants and cafes. Head there to sample many good beers imported from Belgium or some local brands supplied by ten of Utrecht's breweries.

The inner city has retained most of its medieval structure and is largely car-free. In fact, most inhabitants move around on bicycles, using the city's extensive network of bike paths. The central train station is the largest in the country and provides for the many cyclists with the biggest bicycle parking in the world (it can host 12.500 bicycles!!). The central station is also a stop for many international trains and is well-connected to Schiphol Airport.

The organization of the conference is in the hands of Utrecht University, the largest university in the Netherlands, and the University of Applied Sciences Utrecht.

The majority of the conference's activities will take place in the vicinity of the Dom tower, in the heart of the old city. One of the country's most important music halls, TivoliVredenburg, is the setting for the main conference. It is known for its exceptional acoustics, which is considered among the best worldwide. Social events include a conference dinner at the wonderful Railway Museum and sportive activities to balance out the intake of dinners and drinks. It should be clear by now: you do not want to miss BPM 2023 in Utrecht. In Dutch, where 'dom' also

means 'dumb', we like to say: "Who is smart, comes to the Dom city!"

Hajo Reijers (BPM 2023 General Chair)

WHY NOT ORGANIZE A WORKSHOP AT BPM 2023?

Workshops at conferences are an excellent opportunity to meet colleagues with shared interests and engage in discussions via an interactive format. Furthermore, workshops may explore new fields and build a community. In this context, BPM 2023 is soliciting proposals for one-day or half-day workshops to be held before the main conference. Workshops facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences among active researchers and encourage in-depth discussions of technical, application, and new perspectives in line with the conference topics.

For the BPM 2023 workshops, highlighting themes regarding BPM in challenging business environments would be of great interest and provide refreshing views on the discipline. Examples of topics for workshops could be, e.g., business process simulation, BPM and sustainability, or education in BPM. Other avenues for interesting workshops could involve exploring the combinations and convergence of themes that combine BPM and its supporting and enabling technologies and methodologies, like Business Process Model and Notation (BPMN), with new adjacent ideas.

This year, we will require that proposals not only address an exciting topic but also promise a creative format likely to generate lively interactions and foster new ideas. Example formats include a panel, a forum to connect practitioners and researchers, a research experiment, a brainstorming or co-creation session, a manifesto or paper writing session, or a session with lightning talks based on research-in-progress papers.

If you aim to prepare a workshop proposal for BPM 2023, please consider that a typical BPM workshop is expected to attract around 20 participants and about 10 submissions. The workshop proposers should have a strong affinity with the proposed workshop topic and be well-connected with experts on that topic. Proposals that meet the aforementioned criteria will be evaluated by the general workshop chairs, with the target to accept between 6 to 8 workshops covering a broad spectrum of the BPM research discipline. In the case of very similar workshop proposals, we might ask the organizers to merge into a single workshop.

Workshop proposals must be submitted as a PDF document to bpm-workshops2023@gmail.com by December 5th 2022. More information about the expected content of your workshop proposals can be found at https://bpm2023.sites.uu.nl/calls-and-dates/call-for-workshops/.

We are very much looking forward to your workshop proposals and hope to see you in Utrecht next year!

Jochen De Weerdt and Luise Pufahl (BPM 2023 Workshop Chairs)

BPM 2022 — GENERAL CHAIRS' REPORT

This year we celebrated the 20th Business Process Management conference, held in Münster, Germany, from 11th to 15th September, hosted by the University of Münster and the European Research Center for Information Systems (ERCIS). With around 330 participants attending in presence, the conference was back to a number of attendees, which is comparable to pre-Covid-19 BPM conferences.

The conference kicked off on 11th September with the Doctoral Consortium and continued on Monday, 12th with the workshop day, during which eight workshops were offered. The Monday concluded with a welcome reception at the Schlossgarten Café.

The main conference was then held from 13th-15th September in the castle in Münster and offered three keynote speeches, 5 tutorials, a demos and resources session, for the first time a Journal First track as well as many paper presentation within the three topical tracks.

On Tuesday evening, the attendees were invited to one of the iconic student pubs in Münster, the Cavete, and it was a great sight when entering the

Brian Pentland presenting his paper at the first Journal First Track at BPM 2022

pub: It was full of joyful and relaxed BPM participants enjoying food and drinks, networking with colleagues.

The conference party on Wednesday evening took place in "Heaven", a chilled club in Münster's harbor section. After dinner, the award ceremony took place before giving place to the DJ, who opened the dance floor, which was really crowded until the end—a fun

night with colleagues from the BPM community around the world that was very much needed after the pandemic.

Overall, the 20th Business Process Management Conference was a welcoming opportunity for the BPM community to get back together and we are grateful to host the conference!

Katrin Bergener, Armin Stein (BPM 2022 Organization Chairs)

Good vibes during the Gero Decker Keynote at BPM 2022

BPM 2022 PC CHAIRS' REFLECTIONS

The 20th International Conference on Business Process Management (BPM 2022) was held on September 11-15, 2022, in Münster, Germany, as again full in-person event after being online in 2020 and hybrid in 2021. An enthusiastic BPM community celebrated the 20th birthday of the conference series.

BPM 2022 followed the well-established track system, consisting of Foundations (Track I), Engineering (Track II), and Management (Track III). The three tracks embrace the broad spectrum of the business process management discipline. Track I focuses on the fundamental principles of BPM and for this mainly uses computer science research methods. Track II addresses the engineering aspects of BPM, mainly applying information systems research methods, employing rigorous and repeatable empirical evaluations. Track III focuses on the management aspect of BPM using empirical methods, by investigating how BPM can deliver business value.

Paper submission numbers were still challenged by insecurities due to the global developments. 114 abstracts were submitted, out of which 97 full papers emerged for review, in detail, 32 papers for Track I, 35 papers for Track II,

BPM 2022 Consolidation Chair Stefanie Rinderle-Ma during the Opening Ceremony

and 30 papers for Track III. Each paper was reviewed by three PC members, followed by a discussion phase between the reviewers and a Senior PC member who was also responsible to distill the reviews and discussions into a

meta review. In the end, 7 papers were accepted for Track I, 6 papers were accepted for Track II, and 9 papers were accepted for Track III. This results in a total of 22 papers accepted for the main research track and an acceptance rate of 19.3 %. Additionally, 13 papers were accepted for the BPM Forum.

Topics included process mining and fundamental concepts related to data, model, log, and event. Trends also referred to (robotic) process automation. Management topics included business support and process value with a special focus on process mining practices.

The BPM 2022 conference program featured three exciting keynotes. Gero Decker from SAP/Signavio provided his vision of BPM "products for the next 20 years". Jan Mendling from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin reflected on

BPM 2022 wordcloud giving us a flavor of the topics addressed in the main conference, the BPM Forum, tutorials, and keynotes

"Taking the next steps towards Business Process Science". Chiara Ghidini from the Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK) set out "Perspectives on BPM: an ideal ground for Integrative AI?".

Our special thanks go to the BPM conference committees for the exceptional support during the thorough reviewing process, especially to the tracks' Program Committees and Senior Program Committee members.

Claudio di Ciccio, Remco Dijkman, Adela del Río Ortega, Stefanie Rinderle-Ma

(BPM 2022 PC Chairs)

Team of PC Chairs complemented by Adela del Río Ortega, Remco Dijkman and Claudio Di Ciccio , representing Tracks III, II, and I

BPM 2022 BEST PAPER AWARDS

Several conference awards were handed over to the winners at the BPM 2022 social dinner.

The BPM 2022 Best Paper Award went to Sander J.J. Leemans, Fabrizio Maria Maggi, and Marco Montali for their paper "Reasoning on Labelled Petri Nets and their Dynamics in a Stochastic Setting". Runner up were Luka Abb and

The Blockchain Forum Best Paper Award 2022 went to Fabian Stiehle and Ingo Weber for their work on "Blockchain for Business Process Enactment: A Taxonomy and Systematic Literature Review" and the RPA Forum Best Paper Award to Christian Flechsig, Maximilian Völker, Christian Egger and Mathi-

Christian Flechsig, Maximilian Völker, and Mathias Weske happy about the Best RPA Forum Paper award

Marco Montali and Fabrizio Maria Maggi receiving the BPM 2022 Best Paper award from PC Co-Chair Adela del Río Ortega

tems and Robotic Process Automation".

The Best Reviewer Award 2022 went to Francesca Zerbato, Henrik Leopold, and Geert Poels. Thank you for a tremendous job during the review process.

And last but not least the Outstanding Service for BPM Award went to Mathias Weske as Chair of the BPM Steering Committee from 2017-2022.

Stefanie Rinderle-Ma (BPM 2022 Consolidation Chair)

Jana-Rebecca Rehse with their work on "A Reference Data Model for Process-Related User Interaction Logs".

Carlos Capitán-Agudo was awarded the Best BPM 2022 Student Paper for his work on "Analyzing How Process Mining Reports Answer Time Performance Questions" (together with María Salas-Urbano, Cristina Cabanillas, and Manuel Resinas). Runner up was Azumah Mamudu for the paper on "A Process Mining Success Factors Model" (together with Wasana Bandara, Moe T. Wynn, and Sander J.J. Leemans).

The Business Process Innovation Award 2022 was handed over to Bart Hompes and Marcus Dees for their paper on "Detecting and Mitigating the Event Log Mutability Problem at Uitvoeringsinstuut Werknemersverzekering".

as Weske for their paper "Towards an Integrated Platform for Business Process Management Sys-

Carlos Capitán-Agudo receiving the BPM 2022 Best Student Paper award

BPM 2022 DEMOS AND DISSERTATION AWARDS

14 demos were accepted and presented in person at BPM 2022 on Wednesday in the afternoon. The demo session was held in four neighboring seminar rooms in an adjacent Schloßplatz building to the main conference to accommodate visitors switching between all demo stands. All demos were introduced in a prior pitch session in the main auditorium.

"A Tool for assisted Business Process Redesign" by Tobias Fehrer, Dominik A. Fischer, Sander J.J. Leemans, Maximilian Röglinger, and Moe T. Wynn won the best demo award of BPM 2022. "BPMN-Redrawer: from Images to BPMN Models" by Alessandro Antinori, Riccardo Coltrinari, Flavio Corradini, Fabrizio Fornari, Barbara Re and Marco Scarpetta was the runner-up. The other presented demos were

- fcm-js: A Tool for Design-Time Support of Fragment-Based Case Management
- CDLG: A Tool for the Generation of Event Logs with Concept Drifts
- bupaRflow: A Workflow Interface for bupaR
- Declare4Py: A Python Library for Declarative Process Mining
- HITL-AB-BPM: Business Process Improvement with AB Testing and Human-in-the-Loop
- EconBPC: A Tool for Activity-based Monetary Assessment and Visualization of Security and Compliance Measures in Business Processes
- ChorChain: A Blockchain-Based Framework for Executing and Auditing BPMN Choreographies
- Navigation Maps for Business Process Landscapes
- MPDesign: A Tool for Managing Task Requirements and Process Agent Characteristics in Manufacturing Process Design
- WizARd: A No-Code Tool for Business Process Guidance through the Use of Augmented Reality, and
- A Dashboard Creator Suite for Simultaneous Predictive Process Monitoring.

Maximilian Röglinger and his team receiving the Best Demo Award

The proceedings are available at http://ceur-ws.org/Vol-3216/.

Christian Janiesch, Chiara Di Francescomarino, and Thomas Grisold (BPM 2022 Demo Chairs)

The Best BPM Dissertation Award 2022 goes to Alessandro Gianola for his thesis on "SMT-based Safety Verification of Data-Aware Processes: Foundations and Applications". A special thanks goes to Ralf Gerstner from Springer who supports this award with a cheque of 1,000 EUR and the opportunity to publish the thesis in the LNBIP series. The Runner-Up Award was presented to Mathilde Boltenhagen for her thesis on "Process Instance Clustering Based on Conformance Checking Artefacts".

Jan Mendling (BPM Dissertation Award Chair of Review Jury)

Alessandro Gianola receiving the BPM Best Dissertation 2022 Award, with supervisor Marco Montali (left) and Jury Chair Jan Mendling (right)

INTERVIEW WITH MATHIAS WESKE

It's been five years since you took office as chairperson of the BPM Steering Committee. Can you walk us through the main challenges that you faced?

I guess it is basically the same challenges that we all faced, most of them due to the pandemic. I think as a community, we came through the pandemic quite well. After a phantastic pre-pandemic BPM 2019 in Vienna, we were all looking forward to Seville 2020. And then the virus struck. I felt so sad for the Seville team, as they needed to switch from presence to digital. But they managed very nicely, and we could still celebrate BPM 2020. In Summer 2021, I remember discussing with Massimo Mecella, the General Chair of BPM 2021 in Rome, that it was unclear if we could come to Rome. Only a few weeks before the conference there was green light, and we could hold it with a strong part in presence in Rome, even though parts of the community could not travel. And BPM this year in Münster was basically a normal, exciting BPM with many people coming to Münster. I think we are lucky to have a conference slot in September, after the summer has reduced infection numbers and before the winter wave comes in.

What do you see as your main legacy, the thing you are most proud of during your tenure?

I would certainly say that this is the introduction of the track system. It was already five years ago, so let me give you some context. Before 2018, there was a continuing trend that the range of topics covered by accepted papers got smaller and smaller. With more emphasis on data-driven research, conceptual and foundational papers had a hard time to get accepted. So we created the foundations track and equipped it with dedicated reviewing criteria, which would exclude empirical evaluation based on data, thereby giving theoretical and conceptual papers more space at the conference.

Did we have management papers at BPM before the track system?

Actually not very many. BPM reviewers have always asked for a technical contribution. Many colleagues working on management aspects of BPM read a sentence like 'the paper does not have a technical contribution and should be rejected'. Which really discourages further submissions by those colleagues. With introducing the management track, we explicitly state that empi-

rical evaluations of technical BPM results are completely fine. I guess the bottom line is that we need to accept separation of work between sub-communities. Simply speaking, foundational results are presented in Track I; on the basis of those results, Track II present engineering solutions and Track III empirically evaluates those in target environments. I would be happy to see more of those value-chain types of research between our sub-communities.

What were the experiences in the first years?

In general, I think, it works fine. Especially the management track allowed us to increase the community; more and more different people working in BPM

get papers accepted and join the conference. At the same time, there is work to do. It is easy to change a CFP, but it takes time to change reviewing habits, and reviewing metrics. Sometimes reviewers for track I papers ask for the prototype. Or track III reviewers ask for technical contributions. We need to communicate again and again the different scope and different reviewing criteria for the three tracks, but this takes time.

How do you see the position of the BPM conference, and what is the role of Journals, now and in the future?

I think this is a healthy community. When you join a BPM conference, it always feels like a homecoming, you meet colleagues and friends from all parts the world. Flagship conferences like BPM will remain to be an important instrument, despite of the travelling involved, also in more or less post pandemic times. With a stronger role of Journals, we might even broaden the conference more, to provide more of a forum character. Many workshops at BPM this year were workshops in the best sense, where colleagues meet and actively discuss topics in breakout sessions – we might want to strengthen this community aspect of the BPM conference.

How about journals?

Oh yes, I think that the BPM community deserves a dedicated scientific journal. We all know how hard and time consuming it is to start a new journal, but I think it is worth the effort. With all the great work reported at BPM conferences, I think there is sufficient material to create a sustainable scientific journal. The Steering committee discusses this topic and will propose concrete steps towards a BPM journal.

The SC started the BPM Association a while ago. What is the idea behind it?

The main idea is to provide an umbrella for all activities related in our field. In my opinion, our field includes both the long-standing BPM conference and the

INTERVIEW WITH MATHIAS WESKE (CONT'D)

International Conference on Process Mining. If you look at the persons involved, this is one community! And as one community we should have one overarching body, and this is the BPMA. We started it slowly, since these things take a while. Jan

Mathias proud to receive the Outstanding Service for BPM Award from Jan

has already started to make concrete plans to provide governance structures for BPMA. Basically it will be a lightweight structure, and we will continue to have dedicated steering committees and, of course, the successful conferences on both ends.

How do you see the future of BPM, both in academia and industry?

So let's start with industry. I think it a huge success to see this incredible uptake of BPM in industry in the last years. I said above that some things take time, and this took decades, literally. But we as a community can be proud that industry today relies on BPM concepts, methods, and tools. And we have all seen these incredible valuations of companies like Celonis or Signavio. I had the honor of receiving an SAP Academic Fellowship earlier this year, where I got aware of some of the exciting BPM work in the SAP context.
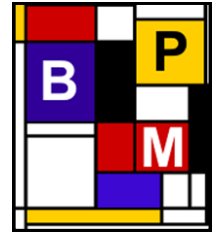
How about the future?

As one of my PhD students working on prediction once put it, it is very hard to

make predictions, especially about the future. Anyways, I think it is great to be a hot topic and to have lots of attention as a discipline, not to call it a hype. In the next couple of years we will see more critical evaluation of the return on

invest on process management solutions. There will be success stories and there will be disappointments. Still I think we as a community have now made it on center stage, and we should

stay there for good.

Finally, in a tweet at BPM 2022, Manfred Reichert posted a picture of you coming to the the conference venue by bike, suggesting you came from Potsdam by bike. Really?

Sure I came by bike to the conference venue! I also came by bike from Potsdam to Münster. So Manfred's tweet was accurate. What

we might want to add is that I took the train from Potsdam to Münster, with the bike on the train. So Manfred's tweet was probably as accurate as a typical tweet.

Thanks Mathias, for the interview!

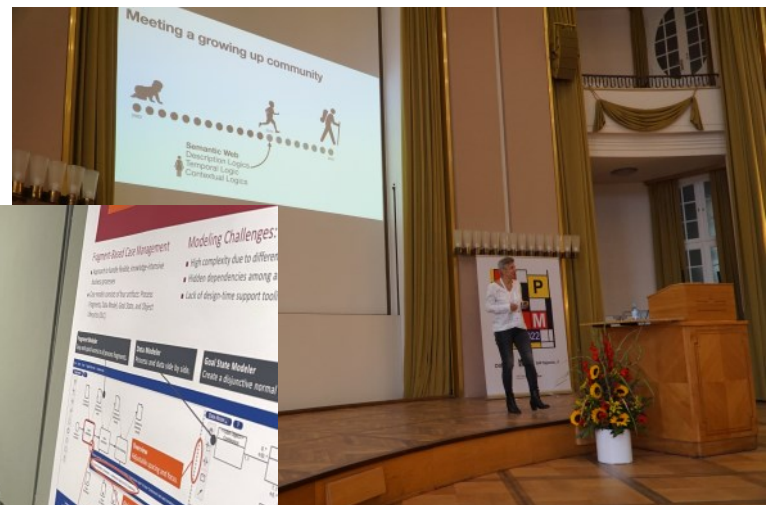Interview by Stefanie Rinderle-Ma

http://bpm-conference.org

This newsletter is an activity of the BPM conference series. The goal is to further strengthen the BPM community. Input for the next newsletter is welcome (e.g. activities related to the BPM conference, interviews, contests, new datasets, tools, etc.); please contact jan.mendling@hu-berlin.de

IMPRESSIONS FROM BPM 2022

Keynote speaker Chiara Ghidini meets a growing up community

HPI's Leon Bein, Kerstin Andree, and Dorina Bano demoing FCM

From dusk till dawn, a memorable BPM 2022 Conference Party