The conference on advances in social network analysis and mining (ASONAM) is back to Canada for the second time. Six year ago, in 2013 participants left Niagara Falls, Ontario with excellent memories. This year, ASONAM 2019 in Vancouver, British Columbia is more established as the flagship, premier and leading venue in the rapidly growing domain of social network analysis and mining. It is great pleasure to have the acceptance rate stabilizes around 13-18% since ASONAM was organized in Istanbul, Turkey in 2012. The stability sustained since then and ASONAM got its permanent position among top tier international conferences. Despite the low acceptance rate, we have witnessed increased trust in ASONAM. Unfortunately, this year some participants could not make it due to delayed Canadian visa processing which is outside the control of the organizers.

Every year, authors of all papers presented at ASONAM and the co-located events are invited to submit expanded versions of their manuscripts to the prestigious SNAM journal, NetMAHIB journal, or the LNSN series which are characterized by their high visibility and fast processing of submissions. Special thanks to Springer Nature for having their venues which have been well integrated with ASONAM to the benefit of both parties.

The advisory board has recently approved two changes which will help in promoting asonam further and in widening the participation. First, the title of ASONAM will be adjusted by replacing the word “Social” with “Science of” to eliminate the confusion that some have thinking ASONAM as a social sciences conference. The second change, we will push ASONAM to end of July this year to avoid the overlap with the start of the semester in North America.

We gather over four days to enjoy interesting and exciting talks and discussions by various authors who present full, short, poster, or demo papers. This would not have been possible without the tremendous effort of a large team of dedicated and motivated research leaders have worked closely together for almost ten months to put together the attractive and intensive scientific program. Their great achievements have contributed much to the visibility of ASONAM. I would like to heartedly thank them all. Not to forget in particular the generous support received from the operational organizing team who have spent considerable time and effort handling daily issues and activities, answering emails, updating the Website, etc. Special thanks to Min-Yuh Day, Panagiotis Karampelas, Tansel Ozyer, Mehmet Kaya, Diaylo Steiman, Jalal Kawash, Danielle. Sleiman, Mohammed Sleiman, and Ahmet Anıl Müngen who have worked hard to produce the proceedings, communicate with participants/authors, and handle the registration, budget, local arrangements and logistics. Indeed, without their highly appreciated effort it would have been really very hard to maintain a balanced budget and keep the trend of providing rich lunches and breaks despite the associated extremely high cost. Thank you to all organizers including general chairs, program chairs and the chairs of various tracks and workshops, to participants, to authors who submitted papers and to program committee members and the reviewers who invested their valuable time and effort to provide timely and comprehensive reviews. We have to also heartily thank Springer for the continued generous support since the first edition of ASONAM in 2009. Hard luck to authors who could not get their papers accepted this year. They are strongly encouraged to submit again and try to get the opportunity and privilege to present their work at ASONAM in the coming years. Next year ASONAM 2020 will be held in The Netherlands which is another one of the most popular touristic destination. We expect a larger gathering and more success especially with the increased interest to analyze social media data for better homeland security. We look forward to having such techniques and results presented in future editions of ASONAM.

Enjoy ASONAM 2019 and Vancouver. We look forward to receiving your new submissions and seeing you next year in The Netherlands for ASONAM 2020.

Reda Alhajj,
Steering Chair