

Research Method Track

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In 2015 REFSQ hosted for the first time a research method track. The track was organized by the authors. It extended the empirical track from previous REFSQ conferences to provide a forum for the exchange about research methods and their application. While commonly accepted guidelines for experiments exist, there is much more debate on how to conduct other forms of research studies: how to design, plan and justify research, and how to ensure relevance, generalizability and applicability to industry? Specific questions are for example: how to assess state-of-art, how to generalize from empirical studies, and how to set up longitudinal studies?

In response to the Call for Papers, four submissions were received. All proposals were independently reviewed by 3-4 members of the Program Committee, who provided recommendation for acceptance or rejection. As a result of this process, two submissions were accepted for presentation: one live-study and one mini-tutorial.

The live-study *Collecting Natural Language Trace Queries* by Sugandha Lohar, Jane Cleland-Huang, Alexander Rasin and Patrick Maeder aims at studying what kind of information developers want to gain from traces between their software artefacts. The mini-tutorial *Focus Groups: Cost-effective and Methodologically Sound Ways to Get Practitioners Involved in Your Empirical RE Research* by Maya Daneva provides an introduction to this very important requirements engineering technique which is only rarely taught to students.

In addition, the Research Method Track contains a session in which young researchers can ask experienced experts in research methodology questions about the structure and design of their own research. It is expected that this will be part of a process of knowledge-sharing in which we continuously raise the standards of our own research.

We would like to thank the members of the REFSQ Program Committee and the experts of the Panel for their volunteer work. Last, but not least, we gratefully acknowledge the support from the local organizers.