RE 2013 Doctoral Symposium

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Abstract—The Doctoral Symposium brings together PhD students working in requirements engineering to facilitate the interaction among students and RE researchers. Students present their research and receive constructive feedback from a panel of senior researchers. The doctoral symposium is run in a highly interactive and workshop-like format.

I. INTRODUCTION

The aim of the RE Doctoral Symposium is to provide constructive guidance to doctoral students for the successful completion of their PhD thesis and the beginning of their research careers. The symposium supports PhD students working in all areas of requirements engineering and offers a unique opportunity to interact with renowned researchers in the field. The Doctoral Symposium welcomes PhD students who have already settled on a dissertation topic and whose PhD dissertation will benefit from external feedback.

We received ten research abstracts that were each reviewed by three members of the Doctoral Symposium Committee. The committee members evaluated the submitted papers based on the following criteria:

- The quality and potential of the research and its relevance to Requirements Engineering.
- The quality of the research abstract according to the guidelines described in the call for proposals.
- The stage of the research and the suitability of the topic for the Doctoral Symposium.

Four submissions were accepted for presentation and publication in the conference proceedings. All students who submitted abstracts were invited to attend the event and to present their research in a poster during the main conference.

II. PROGRAM

The Doctoral Symposium took place on Monday, July 15th 2013, prior to the main conference. The event opened with an invited keynote by Roel Wieringa who presented an “Introduction to Design Science Methodology”. During the day a 45-minute time slot was reserved for presenting and discussing the following accepted papers:

- Sandeep Reddivari (Mississippi State University, United States), “Visual Analytics for Software Requirements Engineering”.
- Sunil Nair (Simula Research Laboratory & University of Oslo, Norway), “Evidence Management for Evolutionary Safety Assurance and Certification”.
- George Valença (Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (UFPE), Brasil), “Requirements Negotiation Model: A Social Oriented Approach for Software Ecosystems Evolution”.

The students were instructed to present according to the following plan:

- A motivation justifying the importance of the research problem compared to the state-of-the-art.
- Research questions guiding their work.
- Technical challenges.
- Proposed solution including technical aspects.
- Research method and evaluation strategy.
- Planned research contributions.

The symposium closed with a panel discussion of committee members who offered different perspectives on hints and suggestions to succeed in a PhD project as well as views on challenges, warnings, and pitfalls.

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