Preface

The nature of conceptual thinking constitutes a central topic in a variety of scientific disciplines. Since 1993, the International Conference on Conceptual Structures (ICCS) has served as a platform that brings together researchers and practioners in information and computer sciences as well as social science to explore novel ways of representing and analysing conceptual knowledge. Originally centered around research on knowledge representation and reasoning with Conceptual Graphs, over the years ICCS has broadened its scope to include innovations from a wider range of theories and related practices, among them other form of graph-based formalisms like RDF or Existential Graphs, Formal Concept Analysis, Semantic Web Technologies, Ontologies, Concept Mapping and more. Today, ICCS draws inspirations from areas as diverse as artificial intelligence, knowledge representation and reasoning, applied mathematics and lattice theory, computational linguistics, conceptual modeling and design, diagrammatic reasoning and logic, intelligent systems and knowledge management.

In addition to vivid conferences, the vibrancy of the field is documented by two recently published books (Hitzler, Schärfe (Eds): "Conceptual Structures in Practice" and Chein, Mugnier: "Graph-based Knowledge Representation: Computational Foundations of Conceptual Graphs") as well as by an ISO standard ("Common Logic", ISO/ IEC 24707) which orginated in this community.

This volume contains the contributions to ICCS 2009, the 17th International Conference on Conceptual Structures (ICCS) held in Moscow. The theme of ICCS 2009, "leveraging semantic technologies", hints to the large overlap of the research fields of semantic technologies and conceptual structures, and emphasizes the goal of closer connecting these two areas. We are confident that fostering the exchange of ideas will lead to cross-fertilization and mutual benefit. We are proud that we could welcome seven renowned researchers who elaborated on the relationship between conceptual structures and semantic technologies from different perspectives.

All submissions were assessed by at least three referees one of whom was an Editorial Board member who managed any neccessary revisions. The thorough selection process would not have been possible without the help of the numerous reviewers to which we express our thanks.

Last but not least, we would also like to thank the administration of Higher School of Economics and local organization team who – with genuine Russian hospitality – took care of all the arrangements to make this conference pleasant and enjoyable.

Sebastian Rudolph   Frithjof Dau   Sergei O. Kuznetsov

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