International Conference
"Algorithmic Aspects of Social Choice and Auction Design"
August 09-10, 2018
Saint-Petersburg, Russia

Speaker: **Reshef Meir**

Title: **Proxy Voting: from Better Democracy to Better Crowdsourcing**

Abstract: We consider a social choice problem where only a small number of people out of a large population are sufficiently available or motivated to vote. A common solution to increase participation is to allow voters use a proxy, that is, transfer their voting rights to another voter.

In the first part of the talk we consider a population of voters with **subjective preferences**. I will show how proxy voting leads to a socially better outcome, either always or on average.

In the second part, we consider crowdsourcing situations where votes are aggregated with the goal of uncovering some **ground truth**. I will show experimental evidence that crowdsourcing based on proxy voting leads to more accurate outcomes, and discuss the reasons underlying the success of proxy voting in both domains.