



MEi:CogSci Alumni newsletter 2019/20

Since now on, the newsletter will be in English, because our first non-Slovak speaking students (Johanna, Laura, Nicolle, Rebecca) graduated this year. Congratulations, same as to the Slovak speaking graduates (Adam, Igor, Kristína, Oswaldo, Peter)!

Study

This year was very special because of the Corona crisis. Since March, all lectures and seminars assumed the online form. Final exams were combined, with some students being present physically, some online. We have nine new graduates (see above).

Entrance exams in June took place online. We had 32 applications from 13 countries (Mexico, Czech Republic, Spain, Germany, India, Estonia, Great Britain, Turkey, Austria, Ukraine, Brazil, Iran, Slovakia), out of which we accepted 20. To these days, 12 students enrolled in the first year.

We hosted 13 mobility students (6 Ljubljana, 7 Vienna). For the next year, we are ready for present or online teaching or a combination of both, depending on the situation.

Since this year, we have added to the CogSci curriculum a new course [Science, Technology and Humanity](#) trying to provoke students to think about new technologies in a wider perspective including ethical aspects and impacts on the society. Last year we added [Introduction to Robotics](#), to provide interested students with hands-on experience in this area whose importance can be expected to grow in the future.

We have finally collected and published the archive of [MEi:CogSci master theses](#). (Those that were available to us – if your thesis is missing from the list and you still have its pdf version, please get in touch!) We are proud of your work!

Conferences

The 2020 MEi:CogSci conference was planned to take place in Vienna, but had to be organized virtually, including lectures, poster sessions, a workshop and coffee breaks. I think we all managed very well, with great thanks to Vienna organizing team. We will try to learn from this experience and provide the best of both worlds in future conferences.

The annual Czech-Slovak conference KUZ (Cognition and artificial life) planned in Brno was canceled due to corona.

Our team at Department of Applied Informatics was also involved in organizing a prestigious international conference on neural networks ([ICANN](#)) in Bratislava with approximately 250 participants. The conference was postponed until the next year, but this year's accepted submissions will be published by Springer.

Life

Besides a few cognitive drinks, we were also active toward general public, mainly through the Slovak Cognitive Science Society (SSKV). The summary of SSKV activities is [here](#).

We are also planning to conduct another round of our [cognitive science alumni survey](#), so you might hear from us soon. :)

We would like to finish with a quote from this year students' anketa:

"This study programme is incredibly good! I won't discuss the formal part of the studies because it's clear to everyone that it's objectively very high quality and the interestingness of it is subjective. What I would like to point out as the most important aspect of the studies, that is not very common in other programmes, is the community aspect. By joining this programme you become a part of a great community of people that love what they do and you have a chance to befriend a lot of amazing people and experience experiences that you wouldn't expect."

Thanks for your feedback; we are doing our best to keep both high standards and a good vibe! :)

Speaking about a good vibe, this year's **cognitive drink** will take place on Wednesday Sept 23 from 17:30 at [Karloveska klubovna](#). We were unable to book tables outside, but we will still try to take outside tables due to corona situation. If you are in a quarantine, feeling unwell or have symptoms, please stay at home, otherwise you are cordially welcome to come and catch up! Even if you cannot come, we will be happy if you stay in touch.

Also, on Friday Dec 4, we are planning to hold the annual MEi:CogSci Christmas event with the students and teachers from the partner universities. You are welcome to join us for a drink (if corona allows), put it in your calendar!

Useful links

- [MEi:Cogsci students and alumni Facebook page](#)
- Conferences [Cognition and Artificial Life](#)
- [Cognitive Science and AI seminar](#)
- [CNC seminar](#)
- [Master theses archive](#)
- [Slovak Cognitive Science Society](#)