



Call for Research Method Track Contributions

Humans are essential in requirements engineering. Over the years, REFSQ has developed a tradition of discussing research methods and its methodological assumptions. **The Research Method track invites submissions that enrich and advance such discourse with a particular emphasis on method application in requirements engineering research.** The REFSQ Research Method Track provides a forum for discussing current and exploring new ideas on requirements engineering research methods. Furthermore, the track offers two ways to learn about research methods: (1) discussion of research methods or of specific research designs with the community experts and (2) presentation, execution, and evaluation of research studies with the REFSQ participants. Participants will benefit from understanding the nature, key aspects, and benefits of research methods that are important for the requirements engineering community.

We define research methods broadly, including research designs, quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis, literature review methods, and mixed research methods. Of **particular interest to REFSQ'16** are papers which review the premises and practice of a research method or technique in order to understand how it can be properly applied to studying requirements engineering related phenomena. We welcome also studies that provide novel perspectives on, and examples of, methods to analyze contemporary requirements engineering application areas such as software ecosystems, big data and analytics, social media and online communities, to name a few. Finally, the track is interested in papers which focus on the adoption or adaptation of methods and theories used in other disciplines such as health sciences, sociology, psychology, and engineering. For further details see <http://refsq.org/2016/submission/research-method-track/>

Types of Submissions

In its second edition the REFSQ Research Method Track becomes part of the main program and LNCS proceedings. We call for **two types of papers** (to be published in the LNCS proceedings):

- Research method papers** that discuss methodological aspects of how to do empirical research of good quality
- Lessons learned reports** that describe an empirical study in requirements engineering and a new research method and show that the new research method really worked and/or discuss problems encountered while applying the new method.

We call also for **different interaction contributions** (not published in proceedings):

- Research method mini-tutorials:** the tutorial should introduce the participants into state-of-art, examples, pitfalls, and success factors of a given research method. The tutorial should cover when to use the method, how to do it well, how to tackle the threats to validity that are associated with the method, and how to report the results.
- **Plans for research studies:** the paper should describe the design and plan of a research study. Any type of study of relevance for requirements engineering is welcome, including empirical and theoretical studies. Preference will be given to studies that are performed in cooperation with industry. Especially PhD students are encouraged to submit papers in this category.
- **Live studies:** a controlled experiment or survey, requiring no more than 90 minutes in total that involves all REFSQ participants in a plenary session. The number of potential respondents may be close to 80-100 (approximately 75% academia and 25% industry). Only one study will be selected. The authors will offer a short introduction to the research design and offer a draft analysis of the study outcomes in the plenary session at the end of the conference.

Submission Guidelines

We encourage submissions from industry and academia (including senior researchers and students). For the papers the usual REFSQ submission guidelines apply. All other submissions are limited to 4 pages in LNCS format. Proposals for live studies and plans for research studies have to adhere to the templates given under <http://refsq.org/2016/submission/research-method-track/>

Submit to <https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=refsq2016>

Research Method Track Chairs

Oscar Dieste - *Universidad Politécnica de Madrid*
Barbara Paech - *Heidelberg University, Germany*

Important Dates

Paper Submission October 3rd, 2015
Interaction submission January 24th, 2016
Conference March 14-17, 2016

Programme Committee

Dan Berry	Daniel Mendez
Travis Breaux	Kai Petersen
David Callele	Rosilawati Razali
Joerg Doerr	(To be completed)
Andrea Hermann	
Marjo Kauppinen	