

Welcome from the Program Chair

Welcome to TRANSACT 2009, the Fourth ACM SIGPLAN Workshop on Transactional Computing. This workshop, co-located with PPOPP 2009, continues the strong tradition established by TRANSACT workshops previously held at PLDI 2006, PODC 2007, and PPOPP 2008.

Transactional computing is a topic with recent advances in many research communities including computer architecture, programming languages, compilers, parallel and distributed computing, and operating systems. It is therefore valuable to have a workshop with a broad and diverse program that encourages participants from different backgrounds to interact. I hope TRANSACT 2009 will prove as successful as its predecessors in this regard. The program suggests it will, with presentations on topics including theory, semantics, benchmarks, and transactional-memory implementations in both software and hardware.

The 15 papers selected for presentation at the workshop were chosen from 38 total submissions. The number of submissions was significantly higher than in prior years (e.g., 27 submissions in 2008), so the Program Committee had an unusually difficult task of selecting papers and, unfortunately, not selecting many strong submissions. PC members were allowed to submit papers with the understanding that they would be held to a higher standard, as is common in the community. There were 6 PC submissions and 3 were accepted.

Each submission was reviewed by 3 PC members. Additional input from external reviewers was often sought by PC members. I thank Colin Blundell, Dave Dice, Jim Goodman, Michal Kapalka, Yossi Lev, Victor Luchangco, Virendra Marathe, Torvald Riegel, Arrvinth Shriraman, Vasu Singh, Michael Spear, and Haris Volos for their assistance. After the reviews were completed, the PC held a one-week on-line discussion including a separate message board for each paper. I was very impressed with the PC's thoughtful and thorough discussions, which led to a consensus on the program. In my opinion, this process worked at least as well as a synchronized meeting would have.

TRANSACT is not considered a formal publication venue; it is the expressed intent of the organizers to avoid any obstacle to subsequent publication of presented work in other refereed forums. Authors have the option of making their papers available from the workshop website (<http://transact09.cs.washington.edu/>) as a convenience to the community. Workshop participants received copies of the presented papers.

I wish to thank many people without whom the workshop would not have happened. Craig Zilles was a thorough and excellent General Chair. The Program Committee provided the dedication and expertise one would expect from such a distinguished group. The Steering Committee has made TRANSACT a vibrant venue and was quick to provide feedback when necessary. The PPOPP organizers were a tremendous help with logistics.

Dan Grossman
TRANSACT 2009 Program Chair