

Message from the FairWare 2018 Chairs

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Modern software is full of examples of bias. FairWare 2018, the IEEE/ACM International Workshop on Software Fairness, brings together academics, practitioners, and policy makers interested in solving this problem and creating software engineering technology to improve software fairness. FairWare 2018 connects a variety of topics pertaining to software fairness, including surveys of real-world software exhibiting bias, definitions of measures of bias in software, approaches to detecting bias in software, standards for software fairness, and research challenges and roadmaps.

The central goal of FairWare 2018 is to stimulate research on the software engineering and system building sides of the fairness problem, complementing recent work the machine learning [1, 4–7] and theoretical [2] sides of the problem. Recent work [3] has identified some of the software engineering challenges of the problem, but more such challenges remain to be identified and solved, from fairness requirements elicitation and specification, to designing systems with fairness properties, to analysis and testing of fairness, to fairness maintenance. FairWare 2018 elevates these issues to the forefront in hopes of increasing research activity on this important problem.

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