MPDEA 2016 Chairs' Welcome

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the first *1st Workshop on Measuring and Promoting Diversity in Evolutionary Algorithms,* associated with GECCO 2016.

While *divergence of character* is a cornerstone of the Darwinian theory of natural evolution, the *lack of divergence* is an oppressive burden of artificial evolution. The problem has been sometimes labeled with the oxymoron "premature convergence", implying that the algorithms would converge to better solution if prevented from exploiting strongly attractive local optima. Different names have been given by different researchers, and different effects have been observed on different paradigms. Almost all deleterious.

The goal of the workshop is to show the current lines of research in the fields of both diversity *promotion* and *measurement*, as illustrated by their own authors. We would be happy if MPDEA would give its attendees the opportunity to dive into this important and open problem, first providing them with background information and eventually enabling them to present their bleeding-edge ideas.

The call for papers attracted submissions from all over the world. The program committee reviewed and accepted the following:

Venue or Track	Reviewed	Accepted	
Technical Papers	10	6	60%
Short papers	1	1	100%

The MPDEA call for papers also included a *call for references*, where we asked scholars to pinpoint any interesting contribution already published. Thanks to the replies, we are proud to add an updated bibliography on diversity promotion to the material of the workshop.

Giovanni Squillero   **Alberto Tonda**
Workshop Chair   *Workshop Chair*

MPDEA 2016 Organization

Chairs: Giovanni Squillero *(Politecnico di Torino, Italy)*
Alberto Tonda *(INRA, Universitè Paris-Saclay, France)*

Program Committee: Igor Deplano *(Independent Researcher, Italy)*
Andrea Marcelli *(Politecnico di Torino, Italy)*
Pablo García Sánchez *(University of Granada, Spain)*
Giovanni Squillero *(Politecnico di Torino, Italy)*
Alberto Tonda *(INRA, Université Paris-Saclay, France)*