

Preface

This volume contains the research papers of the 21st International Conference on Agile Software Development (XP 2020), planned to be held June 8–12 at the IT University of Copenhagen, Denmark. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was held online.

XP is the premier agile software development conference combining research and practice. It is a unique forum where agile researchers, practitioners, thought leaders, coaches, and trainers get together to present and discuss their most recent innovations, research results, experiences, concerns, challenges, and trends. XP conferences provide an informal environment to learn and trigger discussions and welcome both people new to agile and seasoned agile practitioners.

XP 2020 marked the 21st edition of the “First Conference in Agile.” Agile continues to advance, and the focus of the XP conference program has expanded over the years. While the first XP conference focused on eXtreme Programming and predated the “Agile Manifesto,” XP 2020 solicited contributions that address all modern agile approaches, as well as the application of agile to areas including but not limited to FinTech, AI/ML, IoT, and other mission-critical systems with global reach.

The XP 2020 conference invited submissions on 12 tracks, including research papers, research workshops, experience reports, industry and practice, doctoral symposium, education and training, on-site research, journal first, diversity and inclusion, leadership, agile games, and lightning talks. In total, across all submission types, we received over 300 proposals, which demonstrates that the XP community is growing and active.

The research paper track invited submissions of unpublished high-quality research papers, full and short, related to agile and lean software development. Submissions addressing topics across the full spectrum of agile software development, broadly on agile, on issues of concern to researchers or practitioners or both were welcomed.

The XP 2020 research paper track received 46 submissions. After the first screening by the track chairs, 37 submissions were sent for peer review. Each paper was reviewed by three members of the Program Committee. Based on the reviewer comments, 12 full and 4 short papers were accepted for publication in these proceedings. The papers contribute to the literature on agile research and experience, addressing a wide range of topics, including distributed development, large-scale transformation, ethics, leadership, user-centered design, and test-driven development.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the people who contributed to XP 2020: the authors, reviewers, sponsors, chairs, and volunteers. Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to the XP Conference Steering Committee and the Agile Alliance for their ongoing support.

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