



enhAnced Mobile BiomEtRics

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Second Research Conference Report

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Coordinator:	Richard Guest, University of Kent, Canterbury, UK

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Authors / contributors	Annie Maingard
Contributing partners	

AMBER 2nd Research Conference, Poland

This was the second research conference on the AMBER project which saw project partners and our ten Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) coming together in Warsaw, Poland for three days. As well as the ESRs and academic leads, speakers attended from NEXT Biometrics (AMBER industrial partner), Callsign and Hyperion Alfa Venture Capital Fund. Giving insight into working in mobile biometrics and opportunities after completing a PhD.



Warsaw by night

Day 1

Professor Andrzej Pacut of the Faculty of Electronics and Information Technology, Warsaw University of Technology, welcomed the conference delegates on the opening day and introduced the department. This was followed by a network update by Richard Guest, Project Coordinator, highlighting some of the changes in the network in the past six months. The remainder of the morning was spent receiving individual updates from each ESR on their project progress and research. At this conference, delegates were able to hear about early findings, experiment results, and secondment progress.



Jalil, from Warsaw University of Technology gives an update on his project

In the afternoon further talks were given by two guests, Dr Robert Mueller of NEXT Biometrics (AMBER industrial partner) and Dr Oscar Miguel Hurtado of Callsign. Robert Mueller spoke about mobile biometrics within the company, but also about various career paths for post doctorate individuals. This provided an excellent opportunity for the ESRs to learn about the business applications of mobile biometrics, and to ask questions about the industry. Oscar Miguel Hurtado presented to the ESRs his experience on researching at both academia and industry environments. His presentation was focused on the differences/similitudes between both environments in terms of: planning/management research, tools for monitoring and sharing, research aims, databased used and research timing and expectations. We ended the day with a meal out in a traditional Polish restaurant.



Dr Robert Mueller presenting from NEXT Biometrics

Day 2

The morning of day two was spent listening to talks from Noemi Malska, of Hyperion Alfa Venture Capital Fund, and Richard Guest. Noemi gave a very informative talk on project communications skills, with a specific focus on how you present your research to investors and potential stakeholders. This was very applicable to the ESRs and developing their careers. Richard presented on ethics, which led to a lively discussion with many questions.



Much to think about; ethics in research

The Hackathon

It would not have been an AMBER conference without a Hackathon, and this one involved pre-work before the start of the conference. The Hackathon looked at a supplied biometric dataset of mobile device facial images taken across multiple environments, with the ESRs asked to propose a research question then present results. The purpose of the exercise was to replicate short-term data analysis team exercises, often found in research and development, where off-the-shelf algorithms are employed to assess a proof-of-concept. Whilst the ESRs continued with the Hackathon, the rest of the AMBER academic leads met for the regular Supervisory Board meeting. The ESRs all worked into Thursday evening, ordering pizza to keep things going.



Hackathon in action

Day 3

The ESRs presented their results back to the room, with each group having proposed different research questions. A short session followed with discussion around the topic. Richard concluded the conference with a talk about future AMBER work and thanked both Sylwia and Andrzej for hosting the AMBER network in Warsaw. The next conference will be taking place in May 2019 in Spain and will be hosted by our partner UC3M.