

# Preface

This is the 11th edition of the Forum for Information Retrieval Evaluation (FIRE 2019). Continuing the tradition of the last 10 years, the evaluation tracks at FIRE have expanded to encompass new domains and new languages. With five evaluation tracks and participation from over 60 teams, this is one of the biggest FIRE workshops to date.

In tune with the global trend, this year a special focus was on social media analysis, with four out of the five tracks focusing specifically on issues and challenges related to social media. Hate Speech and Offensive Content Identification in Indo-European Languages (HASOC), focused on identifying various categories of hate speech from social media posts. HASOC saw the maximum participation for a single track in the history of FIRE, with 25 teams submitting working notes. The track also introduces the German language in FIRE evaluation tracks.

This year's edition saw the return of the Arabic language, after first being introduced in FIRE 2015. 'Author Profiling & Deception detection in Arabic (APDA)' and 'Irony detection in Arabic Tweets (IDAT)' both focused on specific challenges of detecting false positives in a system for detecting cyber-threats. Artificial Intelligence for Legal Assistance (AILA) is a continuation of previous tracks on Legal Information Retrieval and aims to build a system for identifying relevant cases and laws related to a legal scenario. Finally, Classification of Insincere Questions (CIQ) focused on identifying and categorizing of insincere questions on community question answering platforms. More details about the evaluation tracks and participating teams are available in the respective overview papers.

We express our gratitude to all the track organizers for their efforts in organizing these tracks, as well as to the participants for their enthusiastic participation. A special thanks to our sponsors 'ACM SIGIR Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval' and 'Microsoft India', for their continued support.

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## **Author profiling and deception detection in Arabic**

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