

ECML PKDD 08

ECML PKDD 2008 Newsletter

WEATHER

TODAY

High: 16°C/60°F

Low: 6°C/43°F



TOMORROW

High: 17°C/62°F

Low: 9°C/48°F



ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUIDED TOURS

As two of the sessions close a bit earlier, a part of guided tours will start at 17.00, and a second round of the tours will start at 17.20. To join the tour: meeting point is in the front of the registration desk. (Participation is free.) The tour takes 2 hours and will end at Horta, the location of the banquet.

CERTIFICATE

For those who need it, a Certificate of Participation is available at the registration desk.

INTERNET

All rooms on the ground floor of building R have wireless internet available. To connect to the network, choose the network with SSID 'ECMLPKDD' and password 'EP08wifi'. Another way of accessing the internet, is using the computers in room R006.

FLICKR

Everybody who makes nice pictures of the conference can share them with all of us! You can upload your pictures to Flickr with the tag 'ecmlpkdd2008'.

CONTACT

For questions, remarks, or if you made a picture that you would like to see in tomorrow's edition, please mail to newsletter@ecmlpkdd2008.org

Tonight's Events

Sparkling dinner banquet



Tonight we will have a cocktail and dinner banquet with a brilliant touch! Did you know that Antwerp is the world center of diamonds? Since the 16th century, Antwerp has been the heart of the diamond industry and more than 50% of all the world's diamonds is traded here. This dinner will certainly have some sparkles for everyone! The banquet is held at **Grand Cafe Horta** and gives you the opportunity to enjoy the food and some history of art. This building is a tribute to Victor Horta, a famous Belgian architect of the Art Nouveau style. This curly architecture, also known as Jugendstil, is clearly visible in the ceiling of the dinner room.

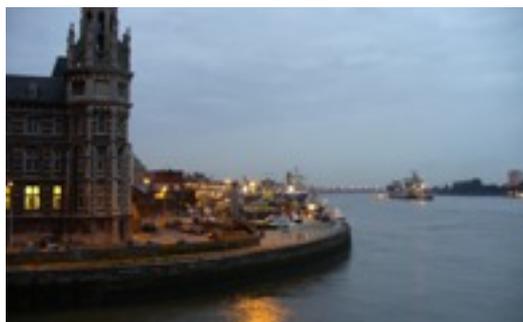


Yesterday's Events

Poster & Dance Party



The dance party yesterday night was a big success. A minor detail was that a lot of people got really drunk and the body guards had to throw out some of these guys with brute force. Some ended up swimming in the Schelde and had to be taken to the doctor to get tetanus injections as there are quite some rats in the water over there.



Today's Events

Keynote talk by Françoise Soulie Fogelman



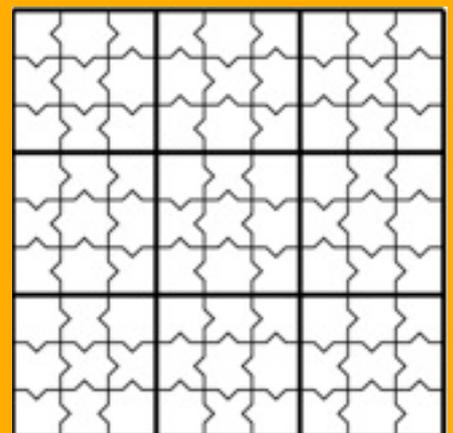
Françoise Soulie Fogelman is Vice president Strategic Business Development at KXEN, France. KXEN is a company specialized in automated data mining. Her talk of today is entitled *Industrializing Data Mining, Challenges*

and *Perspectives* and discusses the problem of large data volumes in Industrial Data Mining and how theoretical solutions are brought to practice by KXEN.

Ms Soulie Fogelman has over 30 years of experience in data mining and CRM both from an academic and a business perspective. Prior to KXEN, she worked in academia for twenty years, and headed the first French research team on Neural Networks at Paris 11 University. She then co-founded Mimetics, a French company making optical character recognition software and services using neural network technology. After that she started the Data Mining and CRM group at Atos Origin and, most recently, she created and managed the CRM Agency for Business & Decision, a French company specialized in Business Intelligence and CRM.

> Sudoku <

Each square, each row and each column can only contain a digit (1-9) once. The digit in each cell must obey the < or > relations.





◀ The live Dennis Sweet Band playing at the poster reception at Stuurboord.

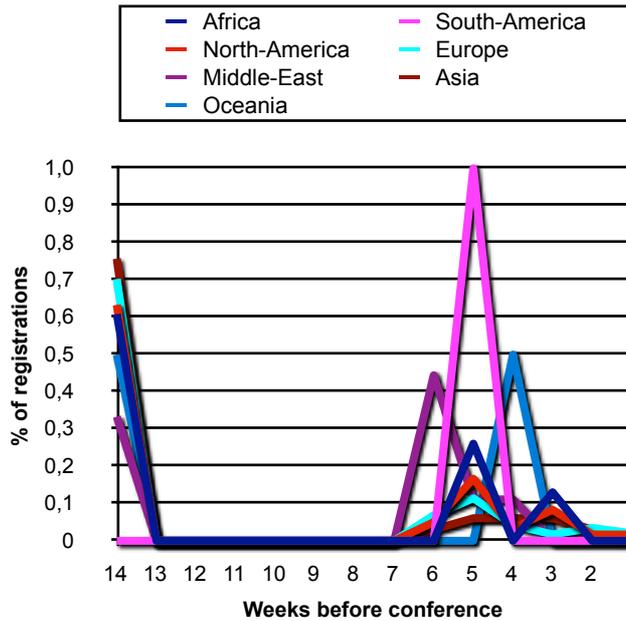
ECML PKDD Statistics

Procrastination

Scientists have a bad reputation when it comes to timelines. We may rarely miss a deadline, but we're certainly not the kind of people that take care of things way in advance either. Ahhh that warm fuzzy glow of the glorious extended deadline. We know it well. And finally actually beating that deadline is a personal victory that to geeks like us, is not unlike scoring the winning goal in the world cup finals.

But enough is enough... Plotting the ECML PKDD 2008 registrations shows that even a simple operation like registering for the conference seems to be a monumental task, best left till last. **Our shame** is presented in the graph to the right.

To be fair, quite a few people were sure they didn't want to miss the hottest Machine Learning event in Europe and registered as soon as



possible. Market surveys suggest these early birds did not want to miss out on the Belgian beer and food. But after the gluttons registered, things went quiet. Really quiet. After about six weeks of registration dearth, we thought of packing it in. But luckily procrastinators also turn out to be budget-minded and many of you registered just in time for the early registration deadline. Lazy AND cheap. Nice...

Listen, we will need to get our act together if we ever want to win an Machine Learning or Knowledge Discovery Nobel Prize, but the graph is worrying: scientists seem to exhibit the same postponing patterns all over the world. If no single continent can lead the way, the change will have to start within each and every one of us individually. Right here, right now! But I guess tomorrow's ok too.

TODO in the City

Getting to know the country by eating!

When you are visiting a country, it is important to get acquainted with as many aspects of the country as possible. And of course, one of the most important aspects of a country is its food. So now that you are visiting Belgium, these are some dishes that you definitely should try out.

A typical Belgian vegetable is **'witloof'** (chicory or endive). This vegetable originates from Brussels, Belgium and was discovered and cultivated in the 19th century. It grows completely in the dark to keep the color white. You can eat this vegetable any way you want: raw as a salad, cooked in a soup or put in the oven with cheese and ham (like the ones we had during yesterday's reception!).



Belgians are also famous for their excellent **'garnaalkroketten'**. This a deep fried croquette filled with a shrimp ragout. They are often eaten as a starter.

Another typical dish is 'Vlaamse Stoverij' or 'Vlaamse stoofkarbonade' (Les Carbonades Flamandes), a traditional Belgian beef stew. Main ingredients are beef, onion and dark beer, seasoned with thyme and bay. It was served together with fries at the welcome reception. If you haven't tried those yet, you should try Belgian fries anyway as they are one of the best in the world, especially together with mayonaisse!

'Waterzooi' (free translation "watery mess") is a mixture of fish or chicken with cream, vegetables and potatoes. The dish is an ideal mix of soup and stew and tastes really good.

And to accompany your lunch of dinner, try out one of the hundreds of Belgian beers. Belgium has an enormous diversity of types of beer, for instance white beer, brown beer en lambiek. Trappist beer - a strong beer brewed by monks - is really recommended.

TODO in the City

Cocktails, Beer and not so Belgian Food

Let it not be known that us ECML folks are stuffy computer nerds. Surely we can indulge in the occasional cigar and fancy cocktail, while discussing the latest political events. **Sipps** is the place to go if you like these finer things in life (www.sips-cocktails.com, Gillisplaats 8). Or if you want a real Antwerp bar, **'t Paters Vaatje** (Blauwmozelstraat 1), right next to the cathedral, has an amazing selection of beers and is known for its huge collection of Mary statuettes. It's one of the brownest pubs in town and a great start or end to your Antwerp pub crawl. Similarly try cafe **Den Engel** (Grote Markt).

The area between Central Station and the movie theater (Statiestraat, Breydelstraat) is a culinary cosmopolitan area. Argentinian, Lebanese, Egyptian, Chinese food can all be sourced here. Particularly recommended comes **King of Bombay** (Indian) and **Fontanella** (Italian). If you are planning to go to the photography museum (www.fotomuseum.be), the museum's restaurant **Contrasto** is also a great place to relax after your visit.