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Welcome to the BigSurv20 Bugle

The BigSurv20 Bugle supplements the [BigSurv20 webpage](#) and the [BigSurv20 Twitter feed](#) in the following ways:

1. *Providing friendly reminders of upcoming deadlines*
2. *Offering sneak peeks of BigSurv20 activities as they are being planned*
3. *Providing unique factoids about the home of BigSurv20: The Netherlands*

Please reach out to us at info@bigsurv20.org if there is a topic you would like for us to discuss in a future newsletter.



Abstract and Session Ideas

As the abstract and session proposal deadline approaches, keep these ideas in mind as you prepare your submission

1. Skim the BigSurv20 twitter feed

If you're not following [BigSurv20 on Twitter](#), please consider changing your ways. We've been posting articles and blurbs highlighting novel uses of big data including [various methods to track wildlife](#) and [the use of financial data by a national statistical agency](#).

We encourage you to check out these posts and use them to help stimulate some ideas for what you or your colleagues may consider submitting.

2. We're accepting abstracts and session proposals

Consider reaching out to colleagues who are exploring big data issues similar to your own and form a BigSurv20 session. In addition to abstracts, you can submit proposals for complete sessions consisting of 4 or 5 papers.

3. The abstract and session submission deadline has been extended

The BigSurv20 abstract submission deadline has been extended to **February 20, 2020**. To submit an abstract (500-word limit) or session proposal, go to www.bigsurv20.org/abstracts. We look forward to your submissions!

BREAKING NEWS



The *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A* (social science track) and the *EPJ Data Science* (computer/data science track) both recently agreed to publish special issues that will include selected BigSurv20 papers. When you submit your abstract, simply indicate whether you would like to have your paper considered for either of these special issues.



Sneak Peek

BigSurv20 Keynote Speaker

The BigSurv20 Scientific Committee is extremely happy to announce Albert Ali Salah as the keynote speaker at BigSurv20. Dr. Salah is professor of Social and Affective Computing at Utrecht University, The Netherlands.

Dr. Salah's research comprises technologies that enable systems to analyze and use the rich social and affective signals emitted by humans and other intelligent systems. This involves the perception, representation, and modeling of social and affective signals in their proper context. Example applications include:

- Smart healthcare systems that monitor patients for physical and cognitive wellbeing,
- Robots that interact with children in educational scenarios, and
- Multimedia retrieval systems that model affective states of the users and evaluate emotional valence of content.

In his BigSurv20 keynote, he will talk about how the rich social and affective signals that humans emit can be captured with the help of modern IT systems, and how these signals can be processed and analyzed to better understand humans in their social context.



The 5 Ws of the Big Data Challenge

Interested in getting the inside scoop and all the gritty details on the Big Data Challenge? If so, read on my friend!

Who: You. Your friend. Your colleague. Your mentor. Your mentee. Anyone and everyone can submit challenge ideas and participate in the BigSurv20 Big Data Challenge (BDC). All you need is curiosity about data and an interest in having fun.

What: The BigSurv20 BDC is the 2020 follow-up to the very successful [BigSurv18 Hackathon](#). However, to keep things interesting, we've made some changes from how things played out last conference. For starters, rather than the conference organizers providing the data challenge, we're inviting you (and your friends, colleagues, etc.) to become challenge owners by submitting data challenge ideas for use in the BDC. Challenge owners are invited to pitch their challenge at the start of the event and to coach teams that are working on their challenge. **In addition, there will be fringe benefits to the challenge owners including a night of accommodations and food/drink during the BDC!** Become a challenge owner by submitting a challenge idea using the "Submit Challenge" button on the [BigSurv20 BDC webpage](#).

Another change is that rather than providing data for use in the challenge, we are asking participating teams to create a big data generating smart system to meet the challenge that was posed to them. See the [BigSurv20 BDC webpage](#) for more information on what we mean by a "smart system."

Where: The BDC will take place in walking distance of the BigSurv20 main conference. Oh, if you didn't know, the BigSurv20 main conference will be held on the campus of Utrecht University in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

When: November 3 and 4, 2020 (with the 2nd day of the BDC overlapping with the main conference).

How: Submit a challenge idea (now through April 1st), register as a participant (beginning May 1st), learn more about the BDC at the [BigSurv20 BDC webpage](#), or send us questions at bigdatachallenge@bigSurv20.org.

Monthly Q&A about the Netherlands



Q: How should I spend my time in Utrecht when I'm not at BigSurv20?

A: Utrecht was founded as an old Roman city. The city centre contains no less than 6 medieval churches and a historical city centre which is easy to navigate on foot. Special about Utrecht are the wharfs, which served as the city harbour in the 13th-18th century and are now full of restaurants and shops that should keep you busy and entertained while away from the conference. As you wander, keep in mind that the city was built around the [Dom Tower](#) which you can see from most points in the city (and can be used as a marker to avoid getting lost 😊).