

## Preface

We are very pleased to introduce the proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Historical Cryptology (HISTOCRYPT 2023), held at the Deutsches Museum in Munich, Germany from June 20–22, 2023.

Traditionally, HISTOCRYPT is open to scientific contributions from historical cryptology and cryptography, as well as connected disciplines such as linguistics, image processing, machine learning, and historical research. Typical subjects include, but are not limited to, the development and application of cryptography throughout history, the analysis of historical ciphers and encryption machines with modern computerized methods, the decryption of previously unsolved historical cryptograms, and teaching and promoting cryptology in schools, universities, and the public.

The scientific program of HISTOCRYPT 2023 was curated by an international program committee, consisting of researchers in cryptology, history, intelligence and language technology. The main goal was to deliver a high quality program with a wide variety of topics. In the double-blind synchronous review process at least three reviewers evaluated each submission and gave their recommendations. Ambiguous results were thoroughly discussed among the reviewers and the senior members of the program committee, who then made the final selection.

The program committee welcomed submissions in two tracks: *regular papers* up to 10 pages (including references) on substantial, original, and unpublished research, including evaluation results, where appropriate, and *short papers* up to 4 pages (including references) on smaller, focused contributions, work in progress, negative results, surveys, tutorials, or opinion pieces.

The conference received 26 submissions from all over the world, including from Austria, Cyprus, the Czech republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, the UK, Australia, Brazil, Israel and the United States. We were able to accept 18 full papers, 2 short papers and 2 posters. All accepted papers are collected in this volume in alphabetical order of the first author's surname.

In addition, we were very fortunate to have two high profile keynote speakers: *Jörn Müller-Quade*, expert on IT security and the certification of AI-systems; and *George Lasry*, an internationally renowned expert on the computerized cryptanalysis of historical algorithms.

Organizing a conference and a peer-review process always relies on the goodwill and support of many colleagues to take their valuable time and contribute to an interesting and fruitful program. First of all, I would like to thank Carola Dahlke for the great collaboration and the great conference location.

My special thanks goes to all area chairs of the program committee, Bernhard Esslinger, Carola Dahlke, Marek Grajek, Benedek Láng, Beáta Megyesi, Klaus Schmeh and Dermot Turing for their substantial support and for many constructive online-meetings. It was a pleasure working with you.

I also want to thank the 26 members of our program committee for their time, effort, and constructive feedback during the review process. In addition, I would like to thank all the authors for once again making these proceedings interesting, diverse and impressive. Furthermore, many thanks go to Christoph Ruhl and Alexandra Suckow for

managing the conference website and the registration process. Last but not least, my sincere gratitude goes to the local organization, Carola Dahlke and Mathias Göggerle from Deutsches Museum München, for carrying the burden of the local organization, and for publishing these proceedings.

I wish you all a joyful time while exploring the papers in this volume!

*Arno Wacker*

Program Chair of HISTOCRYPT 2023