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# Image and Vision Computing

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## Editorial

### Best of Automatic Face and Gesture Recognition 2008

The goal of this special issue is to provide a state-of-the-art overview of new paradigms, methods, and challenges in Automatic Face and Gesture Recognition. As such we have made a selection of the best evaluated papers in The Eighth International Conference on Automatic Face and Gesture Recognition 2008 and we have asked the authors to extend their articles so that they reflect not only the in-depth technical details but also new insights and thorough evaluations of the presented algorithms. Our aim was to highlight the hot topics in the research area and to provide a representative sample of some of the very best experimental works in this field.

The International Conference on Automatic Face and Gesture Recognition Series is the premier forum for presenting research in automatic face and gesture recognition and their related topics. The conference provides a rich forum for sharing and generating allied technologies: the generation of new ideas, new approaches, new techniques, and new evaluation. As such we believe that a collection of representative work which was presented during the conference brings a fresh vision on this challenging and actual research area.

The Eighth International Conference on Automatic Face and Gesture Recognition (FG 2008) was held in September 2008 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The conference program included oral papers, posters, invited presentations, sessions on special topics, and technical program including demos. For the conference, we received 327 papers for review. Each of these was assessed by no fewer than two reviewers, with a large majority of papers being assessed by three reviewers. In total, from a pool 25 papers (7.6%) with the best evaluation scores, after a thorough review, we accepted 11 representative publications for this special issue.

The topics of the accepted papers in this special issue cover a wide range of research directions and it was our explicit goal to allow for a diversity of subjects: facial features localization, classification, and tracking, facial expression recognition, head pose estimation, face recognition and human action recognition. We also gave a special consideration to the systematic evaluation of several face recognition algorithms as well as to the important as-

pect of building a database for the community and providing a baseline on it using state-of-the-art algorithms.

Given the importance of this research field for the future of vision-based and multimodal applications in security, transportation, and health domains, we believe that this special issue will be of utmost relevance and interest to the computer vision community.

#### Acknowledgments

The Guest Editors of this special issue thank the reviewers who have volunteered their time to provide valuable feedback to the authors while evaluating both their FG 2008 contributions and this special issue contribution. They also thank the contributors for making this issue an important asset to the existing body of literature in the field. Many thanks go to Image & Vision Computing Journal editorial support for their help during the preparation of this issue.

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