

7th Symposium on Foundations of Responsible Computing

FORC 2026, June 3–5, 2026, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA,
USA

Edited by

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■ Preface

The Symposium on Foundations of Responsible Computing (FORC), now in its seventh year, is a forum for mathematically rigorous research in computation and society writ large. The Symposium aims to catalyze the formation of a community supportive of the application of theoretical computer science, statistics, economics, and other relevant analytical fields to problems of pressing and anticipated societal concern.

Twenty-two papers were selected to appear at FORC 2026, held at Harvard University on June 3–5, 2026. These papers were selected by the program committee, with the help of additional expert reviewers, out of forty-five submissions distributed between two submission cycles. FORC 2026 also includes a highlights track (piloted in FORC 2025) to showcase other exciting developments of interest to the FORC community. Fourteen additional talks were selected as highlights.

The program committee awarded the FORC 2026 Best Paper Award to Ethan Leeman and Pasin Manurangsi for “Nearly-Optimal Private Selection via Gaussian Mechanism”, to Melissa Dutz, Han Shao, Avrim Blum, and Aloni Cohen for “A Machine Learning Theory Perspective on Strategic Litigation”, to Parikshit Gopalan, Konstantinos Stavropoulos, Kunal Talwar, and Pranay Tankala for “The Importance of Being Smoothly Calibrated”. The FORC 2026 Best Student Paper Award was given to Xinyan Hu, Meena Jagadeesan, Michael Jordan, and Jacob Steinhardt for “Incentivizing High-Quality Content in Online Recommender Systems”, and to Cynthia Dwork, Chris Hays, Lunjia Hu, Nicole Immorlica, and Juan Perdomo for “Inducing Efficient and Equitable Professional Networks through Link Recommendations”. In addition, the program committee chose the following three papers for Best Paper Award, Honorable Mention: “Computational Hardness of Private Coreset” by Badih Ghazi, Cristóbal Guzmán, Pritish Kamath, Alexander Knop, Ravi Kumar, and Pasin Manurangsi, “Protecting the Undeleted in Machine Unlearning” by Aloni Cohen, Refael Kohen, Kobbi Nissim, and Uri Stemmer, and “Limitations on Accurate, Trusted, Human-level Reasoning” by Rina Panigrahy and Vatsal Sharan.

The program committee invited Shafi Goldwasser and Ariel Procaccia to deliver invited talks.

Thank you to entire program committee and to the external reviewers for their hard work during the review process. It has been a privilege to work together with all of you to build an exciting program for this young conference and to shape its evolution. Finally, I would like to thank our sponsor, the Simons Collaboration on the Theory of Algorithmic Fairness, for their generous support.

Huijia Lin
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