

**Presenter:** Reshef Meir (Technion, Israel)

**Title:** From Better Crowdsourcing to Better Democracy

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**Abstract:** Truth discovery is a general name for a broad range of statistical methods aimed to extract the correct answers to questions, based on multiple answers coming from noisy sources. For example, workers in a crowdsourcing platform. In this work, we study a simple heuristic for estimating workers' competence using average similarity to other workers. We provide the first performance guarantees that are independent of label structure or assumptions on the domain (other than the existence of a natural similarity/distance measure), and show empirically that the average-similarity heuristic outperform other heuristics and even state-of-the-art algorithms. We then show how similar ideas justify voting-by-proxy as effective means for a more representative voting outcome, when only a small fraction of voters actively participate.