

Authorship Attribution Workshop

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

It is not unusual for a legal case to depend on who wrote a particular document. The question has arisen in many high-profile cases, such as identifying the author of the Unabomber Manifesto, and the ransom notes in the JonBenét Ramsey murder case and the Lindbergh baby kidnapping and murder case. It arises in many less-celebrated criminal and civil cases on a regular basis.

Research on the attribution of authorship of documents has developed impressively. Yet while testimony on the source of documents in high-profile legal cases has attracted significant media attention, the field has remained mostly under the radar screen of American judges and evidence scholars. Computer models are being created and tested in which the method is employed in a uniform manner. Error rates are reported, with a healthy competition among various practitioners to develop the best algorithms and to use statistical analysis that will get the most out of the analyses produced. At the same time, scholars in linguistics whose methods are less quantitative, offer new and important insights.

The workshop brings together three groups of scholars: leading computer scientists and linguists from around the world whose work on authorship attribution has made significant progress; American legal scholars who specialize in the admissibility of scientific evidence in court; and scholars specializing in statistical analysis. Presentations will be made by computer scientists and linguists, with comments and discussion from the evidence scholars and statisticians.

The goals of the workshop are to determine how the current state of the art measures up to legal evidentiary standards, and to promote interaction among the disciplines that might lead to further developments in the field. Proceedings will be published in the Law School's *Journal of Law and Policy*. An Internet platform for dissemination of scholarship and information about authorship attribution in the courts will also be developed and launched as part of the workshop.

Thursday, October 11, 2012

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Friday, October 12, 2012

9:00 am - 4:00 pm



BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL
250 Joralemon Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Directions: www.brooklaw.edu/directions
RSVP by Monday, October 8, 2012

For more information and to RSVP, please visit www.brooklaw.edu/authorship

Co-Sponsors:

Center for Law, Language & Cognition
National Science Foundation
Journal of Law and Policy

