In Memoriam Sherif Sakr (1979–2020)

Sherif Sakr was a Professor and a respected researcher at Tartu University's Institute of Computer Science in the field of Big Data. He co-edited the Springer Encyclopedia of Big Data Technologies (2019)—the largest compendium of scientific knowledge in this field. Sherif published more than 150 refereed research publications in international journals and conferences. He was also the author of six books, including “Big Data 2.0 Processing Systems” (2016).

Prior to joining Tartu University, Sherif held appointments at several leading academic institutions and private research organizations, including The University of New South Wales, Macquarie University, CSIRO, Microsoft Research, Nokia Bell Labs, and the King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences. He also held several visiting appointments at Humboldt University of Berlin, the University of Zurich, and Technical University of Dresden. Sherif received his BSc and MSc degrees in Computer Science from the Faculty of Computers and Information at Cairo University in 2001 and 2003. He obtained his PhD degree in Computer and Information Science from Konstanz University in 2007.

During his career, Sherif was an associate editor for the ACM Computing Surveys and the IEEE Transactions on Sustainable Computing, among other prestigious publications. He received the best research award from King Abdullah International Medical Research Center. In 2019, he received the best Arab scholar award from the Abdul Hammed Shoman Foundation. He held the title of Distinguished Speaker from the two largest associations of researchers in computer science: The Association for Computer Machinery and the IEEE Computer Society.

Sherif was a first-class individual and a very kind person with a great sense of humor. He was someone who had time for everyone, devoting much time to ensuring that his students were aiming high and pushing them to maximize their potential.

We are all deeply saddened by Sherif's unexpected early departure. We extend our condolences to his family. He leaves behind his wife Radwa and their two children (Jana and Shehab). He will be dearly missed by his many friends and family members.

Albert Y. Zomaya
Editor-in-Chief