

Medleiven
Ole-Johan Dahl

IX

SIMULA Session

Chairman: *Barbara Liskov*
Speaker: *Kristen Nygaard*
Discussant: *Ole-Johan Dahl*

PAPER: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SIMULA LANGUAGES

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Preface

The organizers of this conference have told us that we should write at least 25 pages of manuscript, but that we may produce as many pages more as we wanted. Perhaps they did not envisage the possible consequences, but we have taken their words at face value.

This paper has implied a vast amount of work and archeological activities. We are grateful to SIGPLAN for defining a task to which resources had to be allocated by our institutions and which forced us to write down an account of our work from 1961 to 1971. While we are writing this preface, those years are very much alive to us. We realize that we lived through this period in a state of semimadness, a combination of very hard work, frustration, and euphoria.

The observations which have impressed us most are:

that the results of the SIMULA effort were completely dependent upon the joint beliefs, work, ideas and advice of a very large group of people, and

that at many stages the whole effort continued just because of lucky circumstances.

Have we told the truth about SIMULA's history? Yes, to our best knowledge, we have. But—have we told the whole truth? No, we have not.

SIMULA's history is intertwined with that of the Norwegian Computing Center. And

HISTORY OF PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

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This is the introduction of the Nygaard/Dahl paper at the ACM conference on History of Programming Languages, Los Angeles, 1978

See video of the Nygaard and Dahl talks here:



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