

ACL 2021 Progress Report

1 General Chair

The Joint Conference of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 11th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (ACL-IJCNLP 2021) will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, August 1-6, 2021. See the conference homepage: <https://2021.aclweb.org/>.

We have built 18 committees and there are 60 chairs in total. It is really a great set of chairs! Up to now all things on organization of ACL-IJCNLP'2021 have been well processed and everything is smoothly going ahead. The following summarizes the progress in 2021:

- (1) We received over 3347 submissions.
- (2) Following advice from last year and referring to other conferences, including COLING'2020 and NAACL'2021, we have formed an Ethics Advisory Committee (EAC). Three co-chairs are separately from Europe, US and Singapore. They are Malvina Nissim from the University of Groningen, Xanda Schofield from Harvey Mudd College and Min-Yen Kan from the National University of Singapore.
- (3) Considering it is not very easy that PC Chairs communicate with authors by using Softconf system (START), we have built a message board in the conference home page. All news, especially those important and emergent news and notices are announced in the message board. In addition, we have built the Social Media Committee. Five Social Media Committee chairs are separately from North America, Europe and Asia. They help the conference, especially the PC Chairs distribute news as widely as possible in cooperation with publicity chair by using Twitter, Facebook, WeChat, Weibo and many other social media platforms.
- (4) In good cooperation with NAACL'2021 and EACL'2021, our Workshop Chairs, Kentaro Inui and Michael Strube have selected 23 workshops, which have been announced in the conference home page.
- (5) Also in good cooperation with NAACL 2021 and EACL 2021, our Tutorial Chairs, Min Zhang and David Chiang, have selected 6 tutorials, which are shown on the conference home page.
- (6) Demo Chairs, Heng Ji, Jong C. Park and Rui Xia have well prepared CFP and announced it in the conference home page. The submission deadline is March 25, 2021. According to the request from Heng and Jong, I invited Prof. Rui Xia to join the committee.
- (7) With the great help of Priscilla Rasmussen and Chris Callison-Burch, the new version of Sponsorship booklet has been well prepared and announced in the conference homepage. In addition, to enhance the local sponsorship committee, two researchers, Jing Li and Zhongyu Wei have been invited to join the committee.
- (8) The SRW chairs did good work under the supervision of four Faculty Advisors. The paper submission deadline for SRW is April 2, 2021.

2 Program Chairs

Program Chairs

[Fei Xia](#), University of Washington

[Wenjie Li](#), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

[Roberto Navigli](#), Sapienza University of Rome

New Initiatives This Year

Detailed Documentation

We used GoogleDrive to share documents with SACs, which contains 10+ subdirectories and hundreds of documents.

In addition, we drafted a detailed PC guide (57 pages so far), a SAC guide (36 pages so far), an AC guide, the reviewer instruction, Author FAQ, softconf FAQ, PC meeting logs, readme for running automatic paper assignment, and so on.

Abstract and Full-paper Submission Deadlines

We established a packed 3-month submission-to-notification period (February 1 till May 5, 2021) so as to keep the process agile. To synchronize with NAACL 2021 and give us more time to organize paper track assignments, we introduced an abstract submission step, with deadline January 25, 2021, which gave NAACL paper authors the opportunity to withdraw their paper and submit it to ACL-IJCNLP based on the NAACL rebuttal.

In total we received 4266 abstract submissions. Among them, 200 did not submit the full paper and 719 withdrew before or shortly after the full-paper submission deadline (e.g. due to erroneous multiple abstract submission or submission to another conference), resulting in 3347 valid full-paper submissions.

Four New Tracks

ACL-IJCNLP 2021 introduced four new tracks (also based on pre-existing tracks):

1. Based on the number of submissions in previous conferences, we followed NAACL 2021 and combined two tracks (“Semantics: Sentence Level” and “Semantics: Textual Inference and Other Areas of Semantics”) into a single track “Semantics: Sentence-level Semantics, Textual Inference and Other areas”.
2. To accommodate a wider and more diverse area, we changed the name of the “Computational Social Science and Social Media” track to “Computational Social Science and Cultural Analytics”.
3. Following NAACL 2021, we combined the “Theory and Formalism” with the “Cognitive Modeling and Psycholinguistics” areas into “Linguistic theories, Cognitive Modeling and Psycholinguistics”. This track is designed to encourage submissions targeted to

theoretical underpinning of NLP models which had little/small presence in the past ACL conferences.

4. We introduced a new theme: “NLP for Social Good (NLP4SG)”. The application of AI to provide positive social impact has been an important topic in recent years. However, to date, this has not been a topic highlighted at the ACL main conference. This track is designed to invite submissions that can provide insight for the ACL-IJCNLP community on the topic of NLP for Social Good as well as how NLP could potentially cause or be used for social harm. In the review form, a question specially designed for theme papers is added. The reviewers are asked to check the topic(s) that a theme paper covers, e.g., defining “NLP for Social Good” and in which ways NLP can improve people’s lives in various dimensions, and quantitative and qualitative methods to assess the social impact of NLP research, etc. We anticipate having a special oral session dedicated to the theme in the main conference . We also plan to present the best Theme paper award.

Extended Automatic COI Detection/Automatic Reviewer-Paper Assignment

Following ACL 2020, EMNLP 2020, and NAACL 2020, we carried out offline COI detection and automatic paper assignment using Amanda Stent’s COI detection software and Graham Neubig’s automatic reviewer-paper assignment software.

We made a lot of changes to Neubig’s assignment software; for instance, the paper assignment used to be treated as one big optimization problem for all tracks combined; we changed the code so that the paper assignment is now treated as multiple optimization problems, one for each track. We also revised the code so that additional information (such as top reviewers and COI info for each paper) is produced in addition to the assignment.

The details of the changes are at <https://github.com/acl-org/reviewer-paper-matching/pull/26>.

We created a branch at the github and later contacted Graham Neubig about those changes. He has already merged our branch to the master branch.

Overlap checks

We contacted (and were contacted by) several PC chairs of conferences in AI and related fields to check double submissions. Specifically, besides the obvious checks with NAACL 2021 and the ACL anthology through the DUDE system, we exchanged paper titles and authors with ICML, IJCAI and SIGIR and computed a ranking of the most likely overlaps based on paper titles and author names. The top-ranking papers were exchanged and double checked on both sides. The process is almost complete: we rejected 1 dual IJCAI submission, 4 dual NAACL submissions and 3 dual SIGIR submissions.

Reviewer Recruitment

Given the large amount of reviewing demand, the difficulty of finding quality reviewers and the need to recruit reviewers well in advance, we chose not to make reviewer volunteering mandatory for submission authors, as happened last year. Instead, we did the following:

1. We invited 9,000+ reviewers: we compiled a big list of reviewers from previous conferences, and sent out invitations to more than 9,000 candidates, asking the ones who were willing to serve to fill out a Microsoft reviewer form. About 4,400 of the invitees filled out the form. Through the form we collected a variety of information on potential

reviewers like semantic scholar page, anthology page, website, self-declared reviewer experience, 1st & 2nd track preferences, etc.

2. We created a spreadsheet to share with SACs: The spreadsheet has one tab that includes all the information on the 4,400+ reviewer form, and a separate tab per area. The separate tab has three main sections: (1) reviewers who chose the area as their first-preferred track, (2) reviewers who chose the area as their second-preferred track, and (3) additional reviewers to be recruited by SACs directly.
3. We asked SACs to mark the reviewers that they want to keep. We started a 3-step process: first, the SACs of each area selected their reviewers from the first section of their tab. We then updated the second section for each area so that reviewers selected by one area will no longer be available to other tracks. In the second step, SACs were asked to select additional reviewers from the second section (second-preferred track), including only those reviewers who were not selected in their first-preferred track. Finally, in case the number of expected reviewers for a given area was higher than reviewers selected so far, we asked those SACs to provide more names in the third section and to contact them directly through softconf.
4. After the submission deadline, we checked each area to ensure it has enough reviewers, and, if not, we asked SACs to recruit more reviewers or borrow reviewers from areas with surplus reviewers.

The process took more than 1.5 months, and we ended up with 3604 reviewers.

Extended Reviewer Mentoring Program

Given the rapid growth of NLP in terms of number of papers and new students, it is very important for our community to mentor and train our new reviewers. Therefore, this year we continued the reviewer mentoring program launched with ACL 2020. Ultimately, the goal is to provide long-needed mentoring to new reviewers. We formed a reviewer mentoring committee with three members: Jing Huang, Antoine Bosselut, and Christophe Gravier.

The reviewer mentoring committee have completed the following tasks:

1. The committee conducted an SAC/AC survey, and 130 SACs/ACs responded. The results are posted to <https://2021.aclweb.org/blog/reviewer-mentoring-survey/>
2. The committee also made 5 tutorial videos on various aspects of reviewing: i) the ACL review process, ii) the ACL 2021 review form, iii) ethics, iv) rebuttal and v) reproducibility.
3. The committee helps to facilitate one-on-one mentoring, which has several steps:
 - a. Based on the reviewer form, the committee invited first-time ACL reviewers to sign up for one-on-one mentoring, and sent the signup information to us. Close to 230 reviewers signed up for the mentoring program.
 - b. We passed the mentee information to SACs, and asked them to pair mentees with mentors (ACs) when they adjusted paper assignments. For most tracks, each AC was paired with at most one mentee (often a Ph.D. student, or a junior researcher who has just graduated).
 - c. The mentors would work with the mentee, provide feedback and help the mentee to improve the quality of his/her reviews.
 - d. The committee plans to conduct a survey about the outcome of the mentoring in spring 2021.
 - e. We will put together a detailed report on this program after the conference.

Creation of a Forum for Communication

We have posted all the CFPs and PC blogs to the conference website. We communicate with SACs, ACs, reviewers, and authors mainly via softconf's mail tool. For track-specific issues, we use direct email to contact SACs and cc ACL2021programchairs@googlegroups.com so that all the emails are archived.

We ran into several issues when trying to contact authors via softconf: (1) We could not log onto softconf when softconf was down; (2) Emails to some recipients via softconf are bounced back either because the email addresses are invalid or the recipients' mail servers treat the emails as spam; (3) Softconf sometimes can not handle emails sent to thousands of recipients.

To deal with this problem, we asked our Website and Conference App Chairs to create a forum for posting announcements and formed a social media team. We would then post the announcement at the forum and ask the social media team to post the link to various social media.

Updated Review Form with New Questions

We use the same review form for regular tracks and the theme track, but the form includes some questions that are relevant to the theme track only and those questions are clearly marked. Our review forms were built upon the form from EMNLP-IJCNLP2020 with some revision: (1) On the review form, we ask reviewers whether they have any ethical concerns about a submission that the area chairs and program chairs should be aware of. (2) We also add reproducibility questions, and reviewers can answer them based on the full paper and authors' answers to the reproducibility questions on the submission form. (3) We also add questions to ask reviewers whether they have changed their reviews after the rebuttal period and, if so, what's the reason for the change.

Findings

Given the interest and success of the "Findings of EMNLP 2020" initiative, we are considering repeating the experience with ACL-IJCNLP 2021. We will make the final decision on this in early May 2021.

Other Efforts

Initial submission reviews and desk rejects

We have received 4,266 abstracts, 3,347 of them later submitted as full papers. All papers were carefully inspected to check for violations of ACL policies (ranging from formatting to anonymization to use of supplementary material). We noticed that many papers did not strictly follow the ACL style sheet. We have thus been lenient in terms of margin, line numbers, fonts (but not font sizes), formatting issues, etc. We have also introduced a page limit on appendices, with the rationale that authors might be tempted to write long appendices to add extra content in partial violation of the guidelines and that papers with an excessively long appendix might require a journal submission if that content is truly needed. Because the call for papers did not explicitly mention the appendix going beyond the 4 pages as a cause for desk reject, we decided to be lenient and manually cut longer appendices to 4 pages, to be fair with other authors. As a result of all checks, 19 submissions were desk rejected for violating ACL policies on anonymity, page length, double blind review, etc.

Manual adjustment of submission tracks

Many papers were not submitted to the track where they could receive reviews from most relevant reviewers. We asked SACs to flag all the papers in their track that should be moved to a different track. We went through every single suggestion and moved papers around if warranted. This turned out to be a major effort. In total, about 300 papers were moved across tracks as a result.

After running Amanda Stent's COI detection software and asking SACs to self identify papers with COI, we found the papers that have COIs with all the tracks in their original track and manually moved them (19 papers in total) to the COI track.

Manual adjustment of AC and reviewer assignment

The automatic reviewer assignment has some problems. The two main issues are: (1) the assignment can be very imbalanced with some reviewers getting six papers while others getting zero or one paper. (2) Some junior reviewers get many papers while some more experienced reviewers get very few papers. This may not be due to the max number of papers reviewers are willing to review, but due to the way that similarity scores between a submission and a reviewer are calculated. We have discussed this with Graham Neubig and issued tickets at the paper assignment system's Github site.

We created two sets of paper assignments for each track with `max_paper_per_reviewer` set to six and `min_paper_per_reviewer` set to one or zero. We did the same for AC assignment with `max_paper_per_AC` set to 16 and `min_paper_per_AC` set to three or zero. We shared the assignment results with SACs, who would then decide which set of assignments they would use as the initial assignment. Next, SACs manually adjusted AC assignments as well as reviewer assignments. This effort varied among tracks.

Given the current setup in Softconf, ACs' roles are pretty limited. ACs are essentially meta-reviewers who do not have access to the reviewer accounts, and, therefore, cannot add reviewers, nor make reviewer assignments. We have given this feedback to softconf and hopefully the system will be updated to support extended AC roles for future conferences.

Communication with softconf

We have run into various issues with softconf; for instance, the submission site was down a few hours before the full paper submission deadline; as a result, we had to extend the deadline by 24 hours. Another issue is that sometimes sending emails to all authors or reviewers via softconf can take hours or even days, due to some bugs in softconf. Because of that, we created a forum for distributing announcements (see above).

We have recorded a long list of issues we ran into, and indicated whether the issues have been resolved. We also made a wish list for things that we hope softconf can change. We also drafted a softconf FAQ as it is not trivial to figure out how to use softconf for some tasks (e.g., how to run DUDE).

Softconf has been pretty prompt in fixing bugs, and we are very grateful for that.

Submission Status

We have received 3,347 papers (2,326 long and 1,021 short). Here is the distribution of long, short and total papers per track.

- Computational Social Science and Cultural Analytics: 71 31 102
- Dialogue and Interactive Systems: 203 70 273
- Discourse and Pragmatics: 23 18 41
- Ethics and NLP: 37 18 55
- Generation: 133 48 181
- Information Extraction: 225 70 295
- Information Retrieval and Text Mining: 71 29 100
- Interpretability and Analysis of Models for NLP: 130 49 179
- Language Grounding to Vision, Robotics and Beyond: 55 23 78
- Linguistic Theories, Cognitive Modeling and Psycholinguistics: 29 12 41
- Machine Learning for NLP: 231 101 332
- Machine Translation: 192 113 305
- NLP Applications: 143 83 226
- Phonology, Morphology and Word Segmentation: 16 13 29
- Question Answering: 130 49 179
- Resources and Evaluation: 105 63 168
- Semantics: Lexical Semantic: 51 31 82
- Semantics: Sentence Level Semantics, Textual Inference and Other Areas: 137 52 189
- Sentiment Analysis, Stylistic Analysis, and Argument Mining: 121 52 173
- Speech and Multimodality: 43 19 62
- Summarization: 76 43 119
- Syntax: Tagging, Chunking and Parsing: 48 18 66
- Theme: 29 7 36
- Multidisciplinary And Area Chair COI: 17 3 20
- Desk Reject: 11 8 19

Summary of Timelines

- August 16 - October 21, 2020: PCs invite SACs
- Oct 09 - Dec 02: SACs invite ACs
- Oct 29 - Dec 4: PCs invite reviewers
- Dec 4 - Dec 12: Reviewers fill out reviewer forms
- Dec 13 - Jan 09, 2021: PCs assign reviewers to tracks and SACs select
- Jan 11 - Jan 17: SACs add reviewers to tracks
- Jan 25: Abstract submission deadline
- Feb 01: Full Paper submission deadline (long and short papers)
- Feb 02 - Feb 05: PCs assign papers to tracks and run AC assignment
- Feb 06 - Feb 12: SACs/ACs check papers in tracks for desk reject and track adjustment
- Feb 13 - Feb 16: PCs manually move papers and run reviewer assignments
- Feb 17 - Feb 23: SACs/ACs finalize reviewer-paper assignment and track adjustment
- Feb 25 - Mar 20: Review Period
- Mar 21 - Mar 24: SACs/ACs chase late reviews and handle missing reviewers with the help of emergency reviewers
- Mar 25 - Mar 31: Author Response

- Apr 01 - Apr 07: Reviewer Discussion Period (ACs lead discussion), ACs provide feedback to mentees.
- Apr 08 - Apr 14: ACs finalize meta-reviews and make recommendations to SACs
- Apr 15 - Apr 24: SACs rank papers based on meta-reviews and make recommendations to PC chairs, and recommend best papers.
- Apr 25 - May 03: PC chairs make decisions (they may consult SACs during this time); SACs and ACs recommend best reviewers
- May 05 - Accept / Reject Notifications
- Jun 01: Camera ready

List of SAC/ACs and recruitment

Following ACL2020, we have adopted a hierarchical structure where each area is chaired by two or more senior ACs, who are supported by a group of area chairs. We have a total of 69 Senior Area Chairs and 323 Area Chairs. **Recruitment:** We individually created preference lists for SACs, discussed these and made decisions. ACs were selected by SACs.

Computational Social Science and Cultural Analytics

- SACs: David Jurgens, Paolo Rosso, Noah Smith
- ACs: Tim Baldwin, Cristina Bosco, Antoine Doucet, Manuel Montes, Alice Oh, Simone Paolo Ponzetto, Sara Rosenthal, Tamar Solorio, Chenhao Tan, Oren Tsur, Leo Wanner, Diyi Yang

Dialogue and Interactive Systems

- SACs: Minlie Huang, Gina-Anne Levow, Jason Williams
- ACs: Luciana Benotti, Y-Lan Boureau, Yunbo Cao, Asli Celikyilmaz, Yun-Nung Chen, Heriberto Cuayahuitl, Emily Dinan, Maryam Fazel-Zarandi, Kallirroi Georgila, Alborz Geramifard, Matthew Henderson, Ryuichiro Higashinaka, Kentaro Inui, Casey Kennington, Kazunori Komatani, Sungjin Lee, Rebecca J. Passonneau, Giuseppe Riccardi, Ethan Selfridge, Gabriel Skantze, Ruihua Song, David Traum, Stefan Ultes, Tsung-Hsien Wen, Wei Wu, Rui Yan, Zhou Yu, Wei-Nan Zhang, Kai Yu

Discourse and Pragmatics

- SACs: Vera Demberg, Michael Strube
- ACs: Jacob Andreas, Chloé Braud, Nafise Sadat Moosavi, Sharid Loaiciga, Sadao Kurohashi

Ethics in NLP

- SACs: Ryan Georgi, Dirk Hovy
- ACs: Kai-Wei Chang, Karën Fort, Alvin Grissom II, Margot Mieskes, Vinodkumar Prabhakaran

Generation

- SACs: Michel Galley, Michael White, Jiajun Zhang
- ACs: Anya Belz, Giuseppe Carenini, Nina Dethlefs, Mark Dras, Michael Elhadad, Angela Fan, Mary Ellen Foster, Liang Huang, Shujian Huang, Yangfeng Ji, Ioannis

Konstas, Sujian Li, Lili Mou, Myle Ott, Ankur P. Parikh, Owen Rambow, Stephen Roller, Advaith Siddharthan, Jinsong Su, Duyu Tang, Zhiguo Wang, Yizhe Zhang

Information Extraction

- SACs: Yunyao Li, Hoifung Poon, Dan Roth
- ACs: Alan Akbik, Christos Christodoulopoulos, Leon Derczynski, Jacob Eisenstein, Luheng He, Parisa Kordjamshidi, Lluís Màrquez, Mausam, Stephen Mayhew, Makoto Miwa, Thien Huu Nguyen, Qiang Ning, Haoruo Peng, Roi Reichart, Xiang Ren, Alan Ritter, Alla Rozovskaya, Kevin Small, Yangqiu Song, Vivek Srikumar, Shashank Srivastava, Elior Sulem, Chen-Tse Tsai, William Yang Wang, Wenpeng Yin

Information Retrieval and Text Mining

- SACs: Hang Li, Gabriella Pasi
- ACs: Sophia Ananiadou, Mohand Boughanem, Nicola Ferro, Nazli Goharian, Jing Jiang, Seung-won Hwang, Gerard de Melo, Jian-Yun Nie, Raffaele Perego, Suzan Verberne, Quan Wang

Interpretability and Analysis of Models for NLP

- SACs: Anna Rogers, Sameer Singh, Xu Sun
- ACs: Afra Alishahi, Jasmijn Bastings, Yonatan Belinkov, Danushka Bollegala, Grzegorz Chrupala, Bhuwan Dhingra, Sebastian Gehrmann, Wei Lu, Marco Tulio Ribeiro, Anders Søgaard, Ian Tenney, Byron Wallace

Language Grounding to Vision, Robotics and Beyond

- SACs: Mohit Bansal, Hannaneh Hajishirzi
- ACs: Yoav Artzi, Joyce Chai, Desmond Elliott, Chuang Gan, Zhe Gan, Ani Kembhavi, Radu Soricut, Jesse Thomason, Mark Yatskar, Nancy Chen, Chuang Gan

Linguistic Theories, Cognitive Modeling and Psycholinguistics

- SACs: Roger Levy, James Pustejovsky
- ACs: Alexander Clark, Afsaneh Fazly, Naomi Feldman, Tal Linzen, Kyle Mahowald

Machine Learning for NLP

- SACs: Ming-Wei Chang, Kevin Duh, Tie-Yan Liu, Sebastian Ruder
- ACs: Waleed Ammar, Yuki Arase, Niranjan Balasubramanian, Loïc Barrault, Daniel Beck, Yonatan Bisk, Wray Buntine, Allyson Ettinger, Matthias Gallé, Marjan Ghazvininejad, Mohit Iyyer, Shafiq Joty, Sarvnaz Karimi, Hideto Kazawa, Junyi Jessy Li, Zachary Lipton, Yang Liu, Zhiyuan Liu, Daichi Mochihashi, Naoaki Okazaki, Jong Park, Nanyun Peng, Tao Qin, Sujith Ravi, Mrinmaya Sachan, Natalie Schluter, Pontus Stenetorp, Karl Stratos, Jun Suzuki, Lu Wang, Dani Yogatama, Koichiro Yoshino

Machine Translation and Multilinguality

- SACs: Philipp Koehn, Qun Liu, François Yvon
- ACs: Wilker Aziz, Marine Carpuat, Boxing Chen, Colin Cherry, Marta Costa-jussà, Marcello Federico, Yang Feng, Andrew Finch, Mark Fishel, Jiatao Gu, Gholamreza Haffari, Zhongjun He, Junhui Li, Liangyou Li, Mu Li, Kenton Murray, Jan Niehues, Maja Popovic, Artem Sokolov, Sara Stymne, Longyue Wang, Tong Xiao

Multidisciplinary and Area Chair COI

- SACs: Iryna Gurevych, Andreas Vlachos

NLP Applications

- SACs: Jimmy Lin, Vincent Ng, Min Zhang
- ACs: Beata Beigman Klebanov, Luigi Di Caro, Sanda Harabagiu, Mamoru Komachi, Jing Li, Juntao Li, Yang Liu, David Mimno, Preslav Nakov, Tristan Naumann, Emily Prud'hommeaux, David Smith, Lijun Wu, Jingjing Xu, Min Yang, Jing Yuan, Marcos Zampieri, Wei Zhang

Phonology, Morphology and Word Segmentation

- SACs: Yan Song, Nianwen Xue
- ACs: Ryan Cotterell, Xipeng Qiu, Atapol Rutherford

Question Answering

- SACs: Jennifer Chu-Carroll, Alessandro Moschitti, Furu Wei
- ACs: Roberto Basili, Jordan Boyd-Graber, Weiwei Cheng, Eunsol Choi, Danilo Croce, Li Dong, Yansong Feng, Simone Filice, Radu Florian, Zornitsa Kozareva, Jing Liu, Anh Tuan Luu, Ramesh Nallapati Nallapati, Cicero Nogueira dos Santos, Siddharth Patwardhan, Matthias Petri, Oleg Rokhlenko, Minjoon Seo, Avi Sil, Luca Soldaini, Olga Uryupina, Thuy Vu, Fabio Massimo Zanzotto

Resource and Evaluation

- SACs: Samuel Bowman, Nancy Ide
- ACs: Johan Bos, Tommaso Caselli, Jesse Dodge, Kyle Gorman, Daniel Khashabi, Jin-Dong Kim, Jonathan K. Kummerfeld, John P. McCrae, Joakim Nivre, Massimo Poesio, Saku Sugawara, Adina Williams

Semantics: Lexical

- SACs: Mona Diab, Mohammad Taher Pilehvar
- ACs: Marianna Apidianaki, Eduardo Blanco, Jose Camacho-Collados, Manaal Faruqi, Tommaso Pasini, German Rigau, Vered Shwartz, Veselin Stoyanov, Aline Villavicencio, Ivan Vulic, Yadollah Yaghoobzadeh, Yi Zhang

Semantics: Sentence-level Semantics, Textual Inference and Other Areas

- SACs: Doug Downey, Raymond Mooney, Xiaodan Zhu
- ACs: Iz Beltagy, Jonathan Berant, Chandra Bhagavatula, Chris Callison-Burch, Danqi Chen, Greg Durrett, Katrin Erk, Francis Ferraro, Daniel Gildea, Edward Grefenstette, Robin Jia, Douwe Kiela, Mike Lewis, Quan Liu, Christopher Potts, Rachel Rudinger, Mo Yu

Sentiment Analysis, Stylistic Analysis, and Argument Mining

- SACs: Bing Liu, Rada Mihalcea, Saif Mohammad
- ACs: Alexandra Balahur, Lidong Bing, Julian Brooke, Anna Feldman, Yulan He, Lun-Wei Ku, John Lawrence, Maria Liakata, Smaranda Muresan, Malvina Nissim, Soujanya Poria, Bing Qin, Serena Villata, Xiaojun Wan

Speech and Multimodality

- SACs: Haizhou Li, Florian Metze
- ACs: Julia Hockenmaier, Preethi Jyothi, Herman Kamper, Dorothea Kolossa, Hung-yi Lee, Lei Xie

Summarization

- SACs: Mirella Lapata, Horacio Saggion
- ACs: Florian Boudin, Jackie Chi Kit Cheung, Katja Filippova, Fei Liu, Peter Liu, Shashi Narayan, Manabu Okumura, Laura Perez-Beltrachini, Maxime Peyrard, Laura Plaza, Xingxing Zhang

Syntax: Tagging, Chunking and Parsing

- SACs: Slav Petrov, Emily Pitler
- ACs: Miryam de Lhoneux, Carlos Gómez-Rodríguez, Daniel Hershcovich, Marco Kuhlmann, Yuji Matsumoto, Reut Tsarfaty, Yannick Versley, Yue Zhang

Theme

- SACs: Jinho Choi, Joel Tetreault
- ACs: Tim Althoff, Isabelle Augenstein, Steven Bethard, Courtney Napoles, Brendan O'Connor, Yulia Tsvetkov, Rob Voigt

3 Tutorial Chairs

David Chiang, University of Notre Dame, USA
Min Zhang, Soochow University, China

The call, submission, reviewing and selection of tutorials was coordinated jointly for 4 conferences: ACL-IJCNLP, EACL, NAACL-HLT, EMNLP.

In total, we received 35 submissions for the 4 conferences. After reviewing process, ACL-IJCNLP accepted 6 tutorials as below:

T1: Advances in Debating Technologies: Building AI That Can Debate Humans (3 Hours)

Organizers: Roy Bar-Haim¹ (roybar@il.ibm.com), Liat Ein-Dor¹ (liate@il.ibm.com), Matan Orbach¹ (matano@il.ibm.com) and Noam Slonim¹ (noams@il.ibm.com)

¹*IBM Research AI*

The tutorial focuses on Debating Technologies, a sub-field of computational argumentation defined as “computational technologies developed directly to enhance, support, and engage with human debating” (Gurevych et al., 2016). A recent milestone in this field is Project Debater, which was revealed in 2019 as the first AI system that can debate human experts on complex topics. Project Debater is the third in the series of IBM Research AI’s grand challenges, following Deep Blue and Watson. It has been developed for over six years by a large team of NLP and ML researchers and engineers, and its live demonstration in February 2019 received massive media attention. This research effort has resulted in more than 50 scientific papers to date, and many datasets freely available for research purposes. We discuss the scientific challenges that arise when building such a system, including argument mining, argument quality assessment, stance classification, principled argument detection, narrative generation, and rebutting a human opponent. Many of the underlying capabilities of Project Debater will become freely available for academic research starting April 2021, and the tutorial will include a detailed explanation of how to use and leverage these tools.

A complementary goal of the tutorial is to provide a holistic view of a debating system. Such a view is largely missing in the academic literature, where each paper typically addresses a specific problem in isolation. We present a complete pipeline of a debating system, and discuss the information flow and the interaction between the various components. Finally, we discuss practical applications and future challenges of debating technologies.

T2: Event-Centric Natural Language Understanding (3.5 Hours)

Instructors: Muhao Chen¹ (muhaoche@usc.edu), Hongming Zhang^{2,3} (hzhangal@cse.ust.hk), Qiang Ning⁵ (qiangning1990@gmail.com), Manling Li⁴ (manling2@illinois.edu), Heng Ji^{4,5} (hengji@illinois.edu), Kathleen McKeown⁶ (kathy@cs.columbia.edu) and Dan Roth² (danroth@seas.upenn.edu)

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³*Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology*

⁴*Department of Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

⁵*Amazon Alexa AI*

⁶*Department of Computer Science, Columbia University*

This tutorial targets researchers and practitioners who are interested in AI technologies that help machines understand natural language text, particularly real-world events described in the text. These include methods to extract the internal structures of an event regarding its protagonist(s), participant(s) and properties, as well as external structures concerning memberships, temporal and causal relations of multiple events. This tutorial will provide audience with a systematic introduction of (i) knowledge representations and acquisition of events, (ii) various methods for automated extraction, conceptualization, coreference

resolution and prediction of events and their relations, (iii) induction of event processes and properties, and (iv) a wide range of NLU and commonsense understanding tasks that benefit from aforementioned techniques. We will conclude the tutorial by outlining emerging research problems in this area.

T3: Meta Learning and Its Applications to Natural Language Processing (3 Hours)

Instructors: Hung-yi Lee¹ (hungyilee@ntu.edu.tw), Ngoc Thang Vu² (thangvu@ims.uni-stuttgart.de), Shang-Wen Li³ (shangwel@amazon.com)

¹*National Taiwan University*

²*University of Stuttgart*

³*Amazon AI*

Deep learning based natural language processing (NLP) has become the mainstream of research in recent years and significantly outperforms conventional methods. However, deep learning models are notorious for being data and computation hungry. These downsides limit such models' application from deployment to different domains, languages, countries, or styles, since collecting in-genre data and model training from scratch are costly. The long-tail nature of human language makes challenges even more significant.

Meta-learning, or 'Learning to Learn', aims to learn better learning algorithms, including better parameter initialization, optimization strategy, network architecture, distance metrics, and beyond. Meta-learning has been shown to allow faster fine tuning, converge to better performance, and achieve outstanding results for few-shot learning in many applications. Meta-learning is one of the most important new techniques in machine learning in recent years. There is a related tutorial in ICML 2019¹ and a related course at Stanford², but most of the example applications given in these materials are about image processing. It is believed that meta learning has excellent potential to be applied in NLP, and some works have been proposed with notable achievements in several relevant problems, e.g., relation extraction, machine translation, and dialogue generation and state tracking. However, it does not catch the same level of attention as in the image processing community.

In the tutorial, we will first introduce Meta learning approaches and the theory behind them, and then review the works of applying this technology to NLP problems. This tutorial intends to facilitate researchers in the NLP community to understand this new technology better and promote more research studies using this new technology.

T4: Pre-training Methods for Neural Machine Translation (3 hours)

Instructors: Mingxuan Wang¹ (wangmingxuan.89@bytedance.com), Lei Li¹ (lileilab@bytedance.com)

¹*ByteDance AI Lab*

This tutorial provides a comprehensive guide to make the most of pre-training for neural machine translation, including multilingual NMT and speech NMT. Firstly, we will briefly introduce the background of NMT, pre-training methodology, and point out the main challenges when applying pre-training for NMT. Then we will focus on analyzing the role of pre-training in enhancing the performance of NMT, how to design a better pretraining model for executing specific NMT tasks and how to better integrate the pre-trained model into NMT system. In each part, we will provide examples, discuss training techniques and analyze what is transferred when applying pre-training.

T5: Prosody: Models, Methods, and Applications (3 hours)

Instructors: Nigel Ward¹ (nigelward@acm.org), Gina-Anne Levow² (levow@uw.edu)

¹*Computer Science, University of Texas at El Paso*

²*Linguistics, University of Washington*

Prosody is fundamental to human interaction, enabling people to show interest, establish rapport, efficiently convey nuances of attitude or intent, and so on. Over the past ten years the ability to effectively model prosody has rapidly advanced. This tutorial will start with the acoustic and perceptual foundations and the basics of prosodic feature computation and normalization. It will then discuss prosody's three realms of function: phonological and structural, paralinguistic, and pragmatic, with short, non-computational pair work exercises to illustrate. The tutorial will survey some classic and recent representations, models, algorithms, tools and resources. Finally we will overview the state of the art in the major applications areas and discuss both short-term and long-term challenges.

T6: Recognizing Multimodal Entailment (3 hours)

Instructors: Cesar Ilharco¹ (ilharco@google.com), Arsha Nagrani² (anagrani@google.com), Lucas Smaira³ (lsmaira@google.com), Qin Cao² (qincao@google.com), Ricardo Marino¹ (ricm@google.com), Blaž Bratanič¹ (blazb@google.com), Christina Liu² (christinafunk@google.com), Georg Osang⁴ (georg.osang@ist.ac.at), Vaiva Imbrasaitė² (vimbrasaitė@google.com), Thomas Leung² (leungt@google.com), Afsaneh Shirazi¹

(*afsaneh@google.com*), Gabriel Ilharco⁵ (*gamaga@cs.washington.edu*), and Cordelia Schmid^{6,2} (*cordelia.schmid@inria.fr*)

¹ *Google*

² *Google Research*

³ *DeepMind*

⁴ *IST Austria*

⁵ *University of Washington*

⁶ *INRIA*

New social technologies and widespread access to the internet have allowed for new forms of content creation, connectivity and information sharing. With vast unstructured data and limited labels, organizing and reconciling information from different sources and modalities with bounded supervision is one of the current challenges in machine learning. This cutting-edge tutorial focuses on models and approaches for recognizing multimodal entailment, and uses as case study real-world multi-domain datasets which prompt for understanding the fine-grained visual and linguistic semantics.

Next step, we will coordinate to make tutorial schedule, prepare tutorial materials for proceedings.

4 Workshop Chairs

Workshop Chairs

Kentaro Inui, Tohoku University

Michael Strube, Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies

This year the joint call for workshop proposals for EACL/NAACL/ACL-IJCNLP/EMNLP received 100 proposals (compared to 95 in 2020, 84 in 2019 and 58 in 2018). Out of the 100, 84 were accepted between the four venues. ACL-IJCNLP 2021 will feature 23 workshops.

The workshops will be held on August 5th and 6th.

The 23 ACL-IJCNLP 2021 workshops were selected via a joint call and review committee comprised of all the workshop chairs of the 2021 editions of EACL, NAACL, ACL-IJCNLP, and EMNLP. We split the workload among the workshop chairs of the different conferences. The EACL workshop chairs were in charge of the call for workshops and the submission procedure, the NAACL chairs performed and evaluated the online survey, we, the ACL-IJCNLP chairs led the reviewing and decision process, the EMNLP chairs were in charge of notifying the authors.

The review process was split among the four conferences. Each set of chairs reviewed about 25 proposals, where we ensured that COIs were handled by a set of chairs without COIs. The reviewing took the quality of the proposal into account, but also significance for the NLP community and diversity of workshop organizers, potential reviewers, invited speakers, etc. Since there was some overlap between some of the proposals, in some cases we accepted only one of those and asked the chairs to consider merging their workshops.

After reviewing, we made a joint final acceptance/rejection decision. We discussed each proposal individually at an online meeting that included workshop chairs from all conferences (because of timezones not all workshop chairs, but workshop chairs from all conferences).

During the decision process we noticed that some workshops are supposed to be quasi automatically accepted. At ACL-IJCNLP this only concerned *SEM and SemEval. As it was clear already in November 2020, most *ACL conferences will be held virtually in 2021. Hence, after asking the ACL-IJCNLP general chair and the ACL business manager Priscilla Rasmussen for advice, we did not have to put restrictions on the number of workshop days, because the number of rooms available at the venue did not seem to matter. The decision process took also the results of the online survey into account.

First choice allocation was particularly difficult, as most of the workshops indicated either ACL-IJCNLP or EMNLP as their first choice.

Important: Since the amount of time between call for workshops/submissions/notifications and EACL was very short, not many workshop organizers expressed a preference for EACL. So, if a conference happens early in the year, we recommend to move call/submission/notification to a much earlier date.

Further note: We doubt the usefulness of the online survey and recommend abandoning it.

Here are the 23 selected workshops/co-located conferences for ACL-IJCNLP 2021. All links to the workshops webpages can be found at <https://2021.aclweb.org/calls/workshops/>

Two-day workshops (August 5 and 6):

- SemEval-2021, 15th International Workshop on Semantic Evaluations
 - Alexis Palmer, Nathan Schneider, Leon Derczynski, Aurélie Herbelot and Xiaodan Zhu
- International Conference on Spoken Language Translation (IWSLT)
 - Marcello Federico, Alexander Waibel, Satoshi Nakamura, Hermann Ney, Jan Niehues, Sebastian Stüker and Marco Turchi
- *SEM 2021: The 10th Joint Conference on Lexical and Computational Semantics

- Ivan Vulić and Vivi Nastase

One-day workshops (August 5):

- Benchmarking: Past, Present and Future
 - Kenneth Church, Mark Liberman and Valia Kordoni
- Third Workshop on Gender Bias for Natural Language Processing
 - Marta R. Costa-jussà, Kellie Webster and Christian Hardmeier
- The Eighteenth SIGMORPHON Workshop on Computational Research in Phonetics, Phonology, and Morphology
 - Garrett Nicolai, Kyle Gorman and Ryan Cotterell
- The 4th Workshop on e-Commerce and NLP (ECNLP 4)
 - Shervin Malmasi, Eugene Agichtein, Nicola Ueffing, Surya Kallumadi, Oleg Rokhlenko and Ido Guy
- Interactive Learning for Natural Language Processing
 - Kianté Brantley, Soham Dan, Iryna Gurevych, Ji-Ung Lee, Filip Radlinski, Hinrich Schütze, Edwin Simpson and Lili Yu
- Document-grounded Dialogue and Conversational QA
 - Song Feng, He He, Siva Reddy, Malihe Alikhani, Mohit Iyyer, Yangfeng Ji and Zhou Yu
- Workshop on NLP for Positive Impact
 - Anjalie Field, Shrimai Prabhumoye, Maarten Sap, Zhijing Jin, Jieyu Zhao and Chris Brockett
- Meta Learning and Its Applications to Natural Language Processing
 - Hung-yi Lee, Mitra Mohtarami, Shang-Wen Li, Di Jin, Mandy Korpusik, Annie Dong, Ngoc Thang Vu and Dilek Hakkani-Tur

- Understanding Implicit and Underspecified Language
 - Michael Roth, Reut Tsarfaty and Yoav Goldberg
- Challenges and Applications of Automated Extraction of Socio-political Events from Text (CASE)
 - Ali Hürriyetoğlu, Hristo Tanev, Vanni Zavarella, Deniz Yuret, Erdem Yörük, Aline Villavicencio, Jakub Piskorski and Gautam Kishore Shahi

One-day workshops (August 6):

- Workshop on Online Abuse and Harms
 - Aida Mostafazadeh Davani, Douwe Kiela, Lambert Mathias, Vinodkumar Prabhakaran, Bertie Vidgen and Zeerak Waseem
- 2nd International Workshop on Computational Approaches to Historical Language Change (LChange'21)
 - Nina Tahmasebi, Adam Jatowt, Yang Xu, Simon Hengchen and Syrielle Montariol
- The 8th Workshop on Asian Translation (WAT2021)
 - Toshiaki Nakazawa, Isao Goto, Hideya Mino, Chenchen Ding, Raj Dabre, Anoop Kunchukuttan, Shantipriya Parida, Ondřej Bojar, Chenhui Chu, Hideki Nakayama, Mahmoud Al-Ayyoub, Win Pa Pa, Akiko Eriguchi, Yusuke Oda, Hiroshi Manabe, Katsuhito Sudoh, Sadao Kurohashi and Pushpak Bhattacharyya
- Workshop on Natural Language Processing for Programming
 - Royi Lachmy, Ziyu Yao, Greg Durrett, Milos Gligoric, Junyi Jessy Li, Raymond Mooney, Graham Neubig, Yu Su, Huan Sun and Reut Tsarfaty
- GEM: Natural Language Generation, Evaluation, and Metrics
 - Sebastian Gehrmann, Antoine Bosselut, Esin Durmus, Varun Gangal, Laura Perez-Beltrachini, Samira Shaikh and Wei Xu
- 17th Workshop on Multiword Expressions (MWE 2021)
 - Paul Cook, Jelena Mitrović, Carla Parra Escartín, Ashwini Vaidya, Petya Osenova, Shiva Taslimipoor and Carlos Ramisch

- 6th Workshop on Representation Learning for NLP (RepL4NLP-2021)
 - Vered Shwartz, Naomi Saphra, Iacer Calixto, Ivan Vulić, Anna Rogers, Trapit Bansal, Oana-Maria Camburu and Nora Kassner
- 5th Workshop on Structured Prediction for NLP
 - Zornitsa Kozareva, Sujith Ravi, Andreas Vlachos, Priyanka Agrawal and André F. T. Martins
- SpLU-RoboNLP: Combined Workshop on Spatial Language Understanding and Grounded Communication for Robotics
 - Malihe Alikhani, Valts Blukis, Parisa Kordjamshidi, Aishwarya Padmakumar and Hao Tan
- IWPT 2021: The 17th International Conference on Parsing Technologies
 - Stephan Oepen, Kenji Sagae, Reut Tsarfaty and Weiwei Sun

5 Student Research Workshop Chairs and Faculty Advisors

Student Research Workshop Co-chairs

- Amandalynne Paullada, University of Washington
- Haitao Lin, Institute of Automation, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Jannis Vamvas, University of Zurich
- Jad Kabbara, McGill University and the Montreal Institute for Learning Algorithms (MILA)

Student Research Workshop Faculty Advisors

- Rico Sennrich, University of Edinburgh
- Nianwen Xue, Brandeis University
- Jing Jiang, Singapore Management University
- Derek F. Wong, University of Macau

Information about the Student Research Workshop (SRW) has been posted on the workshop's website: <https://sites.google.com/view/acl-ijcnlp-2021-srw/>

The first call for papers has been distributed to the ACL mailing list and posted to the ACL SRW Twitter account: https://twitter.com/acl_srw.

Pre-submission Mentoring Phase

The deadline for pre-submission mentoring was March 1, 2021. The pre-submission mentoring phase began on March 2, 2021, and continues until March 19, 2021 (still in progress as of this writing). Some mentors included us in their response and are offering the opportunity for follow-up discussions after their main feedback is sent to the student.

We received 34 submissions for pre-submission mentoring, and had 34 volunteer mentors. We used random assignment to connect authors and mentors.

We collected pre-submissions using a unique pre-submission track on our SoftConf page using the START Conference Management program. We then manually emailed pairs of author & mentor to introduce them and offer suggestions for conducting the mentorship process.

Main submission

We have 211 confirmed reviewers. This number is larger than last year, so we expect to not need to recruit more reviewers.

Important Dates:

Pre-submission mentoring deadline: March 1, 2021
Pre-submission feedback: March 19, 2021
Paper submission deadline: April 2, 2021
Review deadline: May 7, 2021
Acceptance notifications: May 14, 2021
Camera-ready deadline: June 1, 2021
All deadlines are 11:59PM UTC-12:00 ("anywhere on Earth").

Funding

To be filled by the faculty advisors, if necessary

7 Demo Chairs

Heng Ji (University of Illinois at Urbana and Champaign, Amazon Scholar)

Jong C. Park (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology)

Rui Xia (Nanjing University of Science and Technology)

Details of Activities:

The web site for ACL 2021 Demonstrations Track is:

<https://2021.aclweb.org/calls/demos/> which includes details about submissions, deadlines, reviewing policy and important dates.

Specifically, in the submission details, we encouraged the authors to include visual aids (e.g., screenshots, snapshots, or diagrams) in the paper. This year the submissions are single blind, in which the authors are allowed to disclose their names on their submitted manuscript. We kept the style files same as last year. We have also adopted the ethics policy from NAACL2021, honoring ACM Code of Ethics.

The deadline for submissions was March 25, 2021.

Important Dates

Paper submission deadline Thursday, March 25, 2021

Notification of acceptance Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Camera ready submission Sunday, June 20, 2021

Final notification for papers requiring ethics re-review Friday, July 6, 2021

Publication date Friday, July 23, 2021

8 Sustainability Chairs

Discussed with the General Chair to confirm that the goal was also to engage the ACL community to contribute to sustainable and livable conditions on this planet. Since the conference plans (virtual or hybrid format) have not been decided yet, we have not discussed the detailed plans about virtual conferences. However, we are envisioning another direction which is to encourage researchers to pay attention and report the carbon cost of their works.

9 Student Volunteer Coordinator

Progress till March 10:

1. Discussed with General Chair to clarify the duties of Student Volunteer Coordinator.
2. Try to estimate the number of volunteers of ACL'21 by the amount of attendees and the form of ACL conference.
3. Waiting for the decision whether the conference will be held online or on-site.

10 Ethics Advisory Committee

Min-Yen Kan, National University of Singapore, SG
Malvina Nissim, University of Groningen, NL
Xanda Schofield, Harvey Mudd College, USA

We are currently gearing up for the ethical review process to start shortly after ACL technical reviews are due. We've had the chance to debrief with the NAACL ethics chairs, Emily Bender and Karèn Fort, about how they had set up their process. We've been lucky to be able to adapt from a lot of the text and process they drafted. At present, we have ~50 reviewers, which we anticipate from prior estimates will be sufficient for the expected number of flagged papers (likely 200-300 in total, becoming 100-150 that merit deeper review).

Our current timeline is as follows:

- PCs notify EAC of papers flagged for ethical review: by Thursday, March 25 (5 days after technical review)
- Assign ethics reviews/filter flagged papers that may not need ethical review: Thursday March 25th - Saturday, March 27
- Send review assignments: Monday, March 29 (due April 15)
- Ethics committee discussion: April 16–22
- Ethics Recommendations to PCs: Friday, April 23 (SAC recommendations due Saturday, April 24; decisions due Wednesday, May 5)
- Field ethics questions from authors: May 5-June 1
- Begin “conditional accept” reviews on camera-ready papers: Tuesday, June 1 (due June 10)
- Ethics committee final recommendations for conditional accepts to PC: Friday, June 11
- PC delivers decisions to conditionally accepted authors: Friday, June 18

We've sought to add additional clarity to the process, including getting the FAQ and sample ethical review questions posted earlier and helping create a short instructional video for reviewers about ethical review (with help from Antoine Bosselut). We are hoping to emulate the past process in encouraging discussion among reviewers in this process for how to shape ethics review.

The process has notably been a bit compressed in a few places. First, the somewhat late assembly of the committee meant there was very little time before the publishing of the full call for papers to re-evaluate the structure and role of the EAC. Given this role is still fairly new, we anticipate that it would benefit future organizers to assemble this committee earlier to ensure some opportunity to discuss with the PCs as to whether process changes should happen, including how much SACs or ACs should be involved (right now, it seems to primarily rely on PCs to move papers into the ethics review track, which is a little awkward and probably too detailed work for the PC level to handle). Additionally, it's become clear that SoftConf is not particularly well-suited to handle the combination of multiple review processes for the same paper, and we have needed to repeat the choice NAACL made to repurpose the technical review form for ethical reviews. It may be wise in the long term to consider in a central way what infrastructure needs to be put in place to allow ethics review to occur.

11 Social Media Committee

We are currently using four different social media channels, namely:

- Twitter
- Facebook

- Weibo
- Wechat

The last two are crucial so as to connect with Asian audience. Starting from the beginning of February, we also post announcements on the forum open on the conference website (<https://2021.aclweb.org/mybb/index.php>). As of March 10, 2021 the Twitter account has 8,147 followers and the Facebook group has 587 members.

Next steps: Organize and coordinate live-tweeting for the conference. We would like to promote work performed by minorities (similarly to what was done for first-time authors at ACL 2020 by Emily Bender and colleagues). On this occasion, we thought of considering the country of the first authors of submitted papers as a way of determining the related geographic minorities. Given this information, once we have the list of accepted papers, we will seek volunteers to report on 1 or 2 papers per minority group, volunteers would be free to choose other papers to livetweet inside a track (as done for ACL 2020). We are coordinating this effort with Xanda Schofield (one of the diversity and inclusion co-chairs at ACL-IJCNLP 2021) and Fei Xia (one of the ACL-IJCNLP 2021 program chairs). We also contacted Emily Bender in order to ask for permission to use ACL 2020 volunteer training material.