

Call for Papers: Special Issue of *the journal Computational Linguistics on Language in Social Media*

**** Apologies for cross-posting ****

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Special Issue of the journal Computational Linguistics on:
Language in Social Media: Exploiting discourse and other contextual information

***** Deadline 15th October 2017 (11:59 pm PST) *****

For more details see: <http://www.sfu.ca/~mtaboada/coli-si.html>

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****Call for papers****

Social media content (SMC) is changing the way people interact with each other and share information, personal messages, and opinions about situations, objects and past experiences. This content (ranging from blogs, fora, reviews, and various social networking sites) has specific characteristics that are often referred as the five V's: volume, variety, velocity, veracity, and value. Most of them are short online conversational posts or comments often accompanied by non-linguistic contextual information, including metadata such as the social network of each user and their interactions with other users. Exploiting the context of a word or a sentence increases the amount of information we can get from it and enables novel applications. Such rich contextual information, however, makes natural language processing (NLP) of SMC a challenging research task. Indeed, simply applying traditional text mining tools is clearly sub-optimal, as such methods take into account neither the interactive dimension nor the particular nature of this data, which shares properties of both spoken and written language.

Most research on NLP for social media focuses primarily on content-based processing of the linguistic information, using lexical semantics (e.g., discovering new word senses or multiword expressions) or semantic analysis (opinion extraction, irony detection, event and topic detection, geo-location detection) (Londhe et al., 2016; Aiello et al., 2013; Inkpen et al., 2015; Ghosh et al., 2015). Other research explores the interactions between content and extra-linguistic or extra-textual features like time, place, author profiles, demographic information, conversation thread and network structure, showing that combining linguistic data with network and/or user context improves performance over a

baseline that uses only textual information (West et al., 2014; Karoui et al., 2015; Volkova et al., 2014; Ren et al., 2016).

We expect that papers in this special issue will contribute to a deeper understanding of these interactions from a new perspective of discourse interpretation. We believe that we are entering a new age of mining social media data, one that extracts information not just from individual words, phrases and tags, but also uses information from discourse and the wider context. Most of the “big data” revolution in social media analysis has examined words in isolation, a “bag-of-words” approach. We believe it is possible to investigate big data, and social media data in general, by exploiting contextual information.

We encourage submission of papers that address deep issues in linguistics, computational linguistics and social science. In particular, our focus is on the exploitation of contextual information within the text (discourse, argumentation chains) and extra-linguistic information (social network, demographic information, geo-location) to improve NLP applications and help building pragmatic-based NLP systems. The special issue aims also to bring researchers that propose new solutions for processing SMC in various use-cases including sentiment analysis, detection of offensive content, and intention detection. These solutions need to be reliable enough in order to prove their effectiveness against shallow bag-of-words approaches or content-based approaches alone.

****Topics of interest****

We are particularly interested in submissions that address the topics below, by leveraging the role of discourse and/or other contextual information. We believe there are novel and interesting approaches that can be developed over the next few years.

- Lexical semantic resources, corpora and annotations of semantic and pragmatic phenomena in social media.
- The role of extra-linguistic information in improving content-based social media applications.
- Figurative language detection (metaphor, irony, sarcasm).
- Discourse processing and argumentation mining of social media texts.
- Pragmatic phenomena in computational social linguistics.
- Intention detection (e.g., intention to purchase a product, or vote for a particular candidate, but also other behaviours such as suicide).
- Detection of offensive and abusive language.
- Fake news detection. Tracking rumours.

We also welcome contributions and comparisons on already studied topics like the following, but submissions need to highlight the role of discourse and/or other contextual phenomena:

- Social structure and position analysis using microblog content;
- Sentiment/opinion retrieval, extraction and classification
- Tracking and summarization of opinion
- Emotion detection.

****Paper format and reviewing policy****

Papers should be submitted according to the Computational Linguistics style: <http://cljournal.org/>

Send papers using the online submission system: <http://cljournal.org/submissions.html>. In Step 1 of the submission process, please select 'Special Issue: Language in Social Media' under the 'Journal Section' heading.

Please note that papers submitted to a special issue undergo the same reviewing process as regular papers. Special issues are the same length as regular issues (at most 5-6 papers) <http://cljournal.org/specialissues.html>.

****Deadline****

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****References****

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