Presentation Matters: How to Communicate Science in the NLP Venues and in the Wild?

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Each year a large number of early career researchers join the NLP/Computational Linguistics community, with most starting by presenting their research in the *ACL conferences and workshops. While writing a paper that has made it to these venues is one important step, what comes with communicating the outcome is equally important and sets the path to impact of a research outcome. In addition, not all PhD candidates get the chance of being trained for their presentation skills. Research methods courses are not all of the same quality and may not cover scientific communications, and certainly not all are tailored to the NLP community. We are proposing an introductory tutorial that covers a range of different communication skills, including writing, oral presentation (posters and demos), and social media presence. This is to fill in the gap for the researchers who may not have access to research methods courses or other mentors who could help them acquire such skills. The interactive nature of such a tutorial would allow attendees to ask questions and clarifications which would not be possible from reading materials alone.

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Dr Sarvnaz Karimi has been an active researcher in NLP and IR for over a decade. She was the president of the Australiasian Language Technology Association (ALTA), where she established a mentoring programme for the Australia-New Zealand NLP researchers seeking mentorship. She is currently acting team leader of the language technology team at CSIRO's Data61. As part of her ACL's publicity responsibilities, she looks after the ACL's social media presence and coordination of the publicity chairs across different conferences, including ACL, NAACL, EACL, AACL and EMNLP. She is currently seeking a tutorial at the ACL conference, as one of the opportunities to engage with the audience to better leverage their social media presence to communicate their research outcomes. Sarvnaz co-presented a tutorial at AACL-IJCNLP 2020 (NLP for Healthcare in the Absence of a Healthcare Dataset). She also actively participates in recruitment interviews for PhD and postdoctoral fellows, which provides her with insight into how writing CVs and interviewing skills can be tailored for jobs in industrial research settings.

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Dr Cecile Paris the Director of CINTEL FSP, a CSIRO-wide research programme about leveraging the intelligence and capabilities of humans and machines to form the best-performing teams. She received her PhD in Artificial Intelligence (AI) (more specifically in Natural Language Processing and User Modelling) in 1987 from Columbia University (New York). Her research has focused on Natural Language Processing and User Modelling throughout her career. She joined the Information Sciences Institute (ISI), an AI research laboratory in Marina del Rey (Los Angeles, CA), where she stayed until 1996, working on knowledge-based systems and Explainable AI. She then moved to the UK (ITRI, at the University of Brighton, UK), where she researched multilingual generation systems. She joined CSIRO in late 1996, creating the Natural Language Processing team. She was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technology & Engineering (ATSE) in 2016 and a Fellow of the Royal Society of NSW in 2019. Cecile was one of the organising co-chairs of ACL-COLING 2006 in Sydney, as well as local sponsorship chair of ACL 2018.

Gholamreza Haffari, Professor and ARC Future Fellow at the Department of Data Science & AI, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, Director of Vision and Language (AI) Research.
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Prof Gholamreza (Reza) Haffari has published numerous papers in the top-tier NLP venues, including the main ACL conference and served as senior area-chair and reviewer of these conferences as well. He teaches different courses in Monash university, including NLP and Machine learning subjects. Reza has co-presented a tutorial at HLT-NAAC 2006 (Inductive Semi-supervised Learning Methods: with Applicability to Natural Language Processing), and a tutorial at Machine Translation Summit XII 2009 (Machine Learning Approaches for Dealing with Limited Bilingual Data in Statistical Machine Translation). He has mentored 70+ postdoctoral fellows and PhD/MSc students throughout his career. This has provided him with an extensive experience about the needs of early career researchers for effective communication of their research.

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