

LAW-DMR 2021

**The Joint 15th Linguistic Annotation Workshop (LAW)
and 3rd Designing Meaning Representations (DMR)
Workshop**

Proceedings of the Workshop

November 11, 2021

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Introduction to the Workshop

Linguistic annotation of natural language corpora is the backbone of supervised methods of statistical natural language processing and has contributed to breakthroughs in practical natural language applications, most notably in Machine Translation, Machine Reading, Question Answering, and Recognizing Textual Entailment. Nonetheless, challenges remain in developing systems that can actually “understand” human language, including the ability to track entities in a text, understand the relations between these entities, track events and their participants described in a text, understand how events unfold in time, and distinguish events that have actually happened from events that are planned or intended, are uncertain, or did not happen at all. The fifteenth LAW and third DMR workshops have been combined for the first time to provide a forum for presentation and discussion of innovative research on all aspects of linguistic annotation, with a special focus on the design and annotation of representations of the various elements of meaning contributing to understanding. These proceedings include papers presented at LAW-DMR on November 11, 2021, held online in conjunction with the 2021 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

This premier iteration of the joint LAW-DMR workshop received 35 submissions, out of which 18 papers have been accepted to be presented at the workshop—8 as talks and 10 as posters. In addition to oral and poster paper presentations, LAW-DMR also featured invited talks by Joyce Chai (University of Michigan) and Stephan Oepen (University of Oslo), and a panel session discussion of the topic, “What is the future of linguistic annotation?”

We thank the Association for Computational Linguistics’ Special Interest Group for Annotation (ACL SIGANN), our organizing committee, for its continuing organization of the LAW workshops, and the EMNLP 2021 workshop chairs for their support. We are grateful to all of the authors for submitting their papers to the workshop and our program committee members for their dedication and their thoughtful reviews. Finally, we thank our invited speakers and panelists for making the workshop a uniquely valuable discussion of linguistic annotation research.

Special Theme: Multi-layered and Multi-modal Annotations

Given that this is the first joint LAW and DMR workshop, this year’s theme was to explore multi-layered annotations, and how different types of annotations can be brought together to enhance progress towards true understanding. This includes papers on the broadening and deepening existing annotation schemas, as well as annotations going beyond text to mark up head movements.

Workshop Chairs

Claire Bonial, DEVCOM U.S. Army Research Laboratory
Nianwen Xue, Brandeis University

Organizing Committee

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Heike Zinsmeister, University of Hamburg

Invited Speakers

Joyce Chai, University of Michigan
Stephan Oepen, University of Oslo

Program Committee

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Workshop Program

Thursday, 11 November 2021

08:45–09:00 Introduction

09:00–11:00 Session A: Oral presentations:

09:00–10:00 Invited talk by Stephan Oepen: Linguistic Structure beyond Strings and Trees

10:00–10:15 *Zero-shot cross-lingual Meaning Representation Transfer: Annotation of Hungarian using the Prague Functional Generative Description*
Attila Novák, Borbála Novák and Csilla Novák

10:15–10:30 *Theoretical and Practical Issues in the Semantic Annotation of Four Indigenous Languages*
Jens E. L. Van Gysel, Meagan Vigus, Lukas Denk, Andrew Cowell, Rosa Vallejos, Tim O’Gorman and William Croft

10:30–10:45 *Representing Implicit Positive Meaning of Negated Statements in AMR*
Katharina Stein and Lucia Donatelli

10:45–11:00 *AutoAspect: Automatic Annotation of Tense and Aspect for Uniform Meaning Representations*
Daniel Chen, Martha Palmer and Meagan Vigus

11:30–13:30 Session B: Poster presentations:

Thursday, 11 November 2021 (continued)

11:30–12:00 Overview of poster presentations

- 12:00–12:45 *Can predicate-argument relationships be extracted from UD trees?*
Adam Ek, Jean-Philippe Bernardy and Stergios Chatzikyriakidis
- 12:00–12:45 *Classifying Divergences in Cross-lingual AMR Pairs*
Shira Wein and Nathan Schneider
- 12:00–12:45 *A Linguistic Annotation Framework to Study Interactions in Multilingual Healthcare Conversational Forums*
Ishani Mondal, Kalika Bali, Mohit Jain, Monojit Choudhury, Ashish Sharma, Evans Gitau, Jacki O’Neill, Kagonya Awori and Sarah Gitau
- 12:00–12:45 *Sister Help: Data Augmentation for Frame-Semantic Role Labeling*
Ayush Panchoy, Miriam R L Petruck and Swabha Swayamdipta
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- 12:00–12:45 *Automatic Entity State Annotation using the VerbNet Semantic Parser*
Ghazaleh Kazeminejad, Martha Palmer, Tao Li and Vivek Srikumar
- 12:00–12:45 *On Releasing Annotator-Level Labels and Information in Datasets*
Vinodkumar Prabhakaran, Aida Mostafazadeh Davani and Mark Diaz

Thursday, 11 November 2021 (continued)

12:45–13:30 Panel discussion: what’s the future of linguistic annotation?

14:00–16:00 Session C: Oral presentations:

14:00–15:00 Invited talk by Joyce Chai: Intuitive Physics in Commonsense Language Understanding

15:00–15:15 *Increasing Sentence-Level Comprehension Through Text Classification of Epistemic Functions*

Maria Berger and Elizabeth Goldstein

15:15–15:30 *Towards a Methodology Supporting Semiautomatic Annotation of HeadMovements in Video-recorded Conversations*

Patrizia Paggio, Costanza Navarretta, Bart Jongejan and Manex Agirrezabal

15:30–15:45 *Intensionalizing Abstract Meaning Representations: Non-Veridicality and Scope*

Gregor Williamson, Patrick Elliott and Yuxin Ji

15:45–16:00 *WikiGUM: Exhaustive Entity Linking for Wikification in 12 Genres*

Jessica Lin and Amir Zeldes

16:00–16:15 Concluding remarks

