

IWPT 2025

**18th International Conference on Parsing Technologies
(IWPT, SyntaxFest 2025)**

Proceedings

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Introduction

Welcome to the 18th International Conference on Parsing Technologies (IWPT 2025). Since its inaugural meeting in 1989 in Pittsburgh, PA, USA, the IWPT meeting series has been hosted by the Special Interest Group on Natural Language Parsing of the Association for Computational Linguistics as SIGPARSE’s primary specialized forum for research on natural language parsing. This year, for the first time, IWPT is held as part of SyntaxFest 2025 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, which brings together five related but independent events:

- 18th International Conference on Parsing Technologies (IWPT 2025)
- 8th Universal Dependencies Workshop (UDW 2025)
- 8th International Conference on Dependency Linguistics (DepLing 2025)
- 23rd Workshop on Treebanks and Linguistic Theories (TLT 2025)
- 3rd Workshop on Quantitative Syntax (QUASY 2025)

In addition, a pre-conference workshop organized by the COST Action CA21167 – Universality, Diversity and Idiosyncrasy in Language Technology (UniDive) was held prior to the main event, with dedicated sessions on the 1st UniDive Shared Task on Morphosyntactic Parsing and the 2nd Workshop on Universal Dependencies for Turkic Languages.

SyntaxFest 2025 continues the tradition of SyntaxFest 2019 (Paris, France), SyntaxFest 2021 (Sofia, Bulgaria), and GURT/SyntaxFest 2023 (Washington DC, USA) in bringing together multiple events that share a common interest in using corpora and treebanks for empirically validating syntactic theories, studying syntax from quantitative and theoretical points of view, and training machine learning models for natural language processing. Much of this research is increasingly multilingual and cross-lingual and requires continued systematic analysis from various theoretical, applied, and practical perspectives. By co-locating these workshops under a shared umbrella, SyntaxFest fosters dialogue between overlapping research communities and supports innovation at the intersection of linguistics and language technology. As in previous editions, all five workshops at SyntaxFest 2025 shared a common submission and reviewing process, with a unified timeline, identical submission formats, and a shared program committee. During submission, authors could indicate one or more preferred venues, but the final assignment of papers was determined by the collective program chairs, composed of the individual workshop chairs, based on thematic alignment. All accepted submissions were peer-reviewed by at least three reviewers from the shared program committee.

In total, SyntaxFest 2025 received 94 submissions, of which 73 (78%) were accepted for presentation. The final program included a total of 47 long papers, 21 short papers, and 5 non-archival contributions, distributed across the five workshops: 5 papers were presented at IWPT (2 long, 3 short); 20 at UDW (14 long, 5 short, 1 non-archival); 16 at DepLing (12 long, 2 short, 2 non-archival); 18 at TLT (10 long, 7 short, 1 non-archival); and 14 at QUASY (9 long, 4 short, 1 non-archival).

Our sincere thanks go to everyone who made this event possible. We thank all authors for their submissions and the reviewers for their time and thoughtful feedback, which contributed to a diverse and high-quality program. Special thanks go to the local organizing team at the University of Ljubljana and the Slovene Language Technologies Society for hosting the event, and to the sponsors for their generous support. Finally, we gratefully acknowledge ACL SIGPARSE for endorsing the event and the ACL Anthology for publishing the proceedings.

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Ljubljana, August 2025

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Keynote

What can we learn from language models?

Isabel Papadimitriou

Kempner Institute for the Study of Natural and Artificial Intelligence at Harvard University



Abstract: This talk will examine how linguistic theory can benefit from the recent surprising successes of language models in modeling human language production. Language models provide linguists with an unprecedented empirical tool to expand and test our theoretical hypotheses about language. I will go over two main methodologies for taking advantage of language models as an empirical tool. Firstly, examining language model internals as functional theories for how linguistic information can be represented in ways that lead to linguistic capabilities. Secondly, using model training as an empirical testbed, examining what kinds of environments make statistical language learning possible or harder. Both methodologies showcase the importance of developing empirical paradigms that narrow the gap between computational methods and linguistic concerns in order to make language models able to help us expand theoretical horizons.

Bio: Isabel Papadimitriou is a Kempner Fellow at the Kempner Institute for the Study of Natural and Artificial Intelligence at Harvard, and incoming as an assistant professor of linguistics at the University of British Columbia. She is interested in analyzing how large language models learn and represent abstract structural systems, and in how experiments on language models can help enrich the hypothesis space around what makes the learning and representation of language possible.

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