

SIGDIAL 2025



**The 26th Annual Meeting of
the Special Interest Group on
Discourse and Dialogue**

Proceedings of the Conference

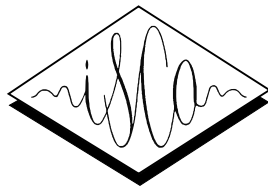
August 25 - 27, 2025
Avignon Université, Avignon, France
& Aix-Marseille Université, Marseille, France

In cooperation with:

Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)



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Message from the General Chairs

We are delighted to present the proceedings of SIGDIAL 2025, the 26th Annual Meeting of the Special Interest Group on Discourse and Dialogue. SIGDIAL has established itself as a premier venue for the dissemination and discussion of cutting-edge research in discourse and dialogue.

This year, the conference was held as a fully in-person event from August 25 to 27, 2025, at Avignon University in the beautiful region of Provence, in the south of France. The SIGDIAL 2025 program featured a rich and diverse set of activities: three keynote talks, seven oral presentation sessions, two poster and demonstration sessions, and a panel discussion.

In addition, two satellite workshops will take place in the days following the main conference: the 2025 Young Researchers' Roundtable on Spoken Dialog Systems (YRRSDS 2025) and the Twelfth Dialog System Technology Challenge workshop (DSTC12).

SIGDIAL 2025 received 116 submissions (after desk rejections and withdrawals), including 75 long papers, 38 short papers, and 3 demonstration papers. A small portion of these submissions (8) were received via the ACL Rolling Review (ARR). The review process was supported by 15 Senior Program Committee (SPC) members, who led discussions and provided meta-reviews, alongside 115 Program Committee (PC) reviewers. Each submission received at least three detailed reviews. Final decisions were made through careful consideration of the reviews, meta-reviews, and discussion outcomes, facilitated by the SPCs.

We are deeply grateful to all members of the Program Committee and Senior Program Committee for their thoughtful evaluations and dedication. Their contributions were vital in assembling a high-quality technical program. Aiming for both quality and diversity, a total of 59 papers were accepted: 41 long papers, 16 short papers, and 2 demonstration papers, yielding an overall acceptance rate of 50.8%. The selected contributions reflect the broad and vibrant landscape of current research in discourse and dialogue.

During this edition, we were honoured to welcome three distinguished keynote speakers:

- Dr. Chris Welty, Research Scientist at Google (New York) and Visiting Professor at Cornell Tech, with a talk entitled "*Are There Purely Multi-Turn 'Dialog Failures'?*"
- Prof. Alex Lascarides, Chair in Semantics at the School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh, presenting "*Interactive Task Learning*"
- Dr. Abdellah Fourtassi, Associate Professor of Computer and Cognitive Science at Aix-Marseille University, delivering "*Ecological Study of Language Acquisition: The Role of Natural Conversation*"

We would like to thank the SIGDIAL officers and Avignon University for their continued support and guidance. We are also immensely appreciative of the tireless work of the organizing committee:

- A. Seza Dođruöz (Ghent University, Belgium), Mentoring Chair
- Ramesh Manuvinakurike (Intel Labs, USA), Sponsorships Chair
- Teva Merlin (Avignon Université, France), Publication Chair
- Tania Jimenez (Avignon Université, France), Publicity Chair

- Angus Addlesee (Heriot-Watt University, UK), Social Media Chair
- Yannick Estève (Avignon Université, France), Local Arrangements Chair

We extend special thanks to the local arrangements team at Avignon University: Salima Mdaffar, Manh-Tuan Nguyen, Virgile Socal, Ahmed Njifenjou, Ryan Whetten, Lilian Rodrigues de Almeida, Maryem Bouziane, Mickael Rouvier, and Doria Bonzi.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our exclusive sponsor: ADAY.

Finally, it was our great pleasure to welcome all the participants to Avignon and Avignon University. Nestled in the heart of Provence, Avignon is a city steeped in history, known for its extraordinary medieval heritage, sunlit landscapes, and vibrant cultural life. Once the seat of the papacy, its UNESCO-listed old town offers a unique setting where ancient walls bear witness to centuries of learning and exchange. Founded in 1303, Avignon University is one of the oldest in France and remains deeply committed to interdisciplinary research and innovation. Hosting SIGDIAL 2025 on its historic campus, in the heart of the old city, provided participants with not only a scientifically enriching experience but also an inspiring connection to the cultural and academic heritage of Provence.

We hope everyone enjoyed a productive and memorable conference experience and left with lasting impressions of SIGDIAL 2025 as a successful event,

- **General Co-Chairs:** *Frédéric Béchet (Aix-Marseille Université, France) and Fabrice Lefèvre (Avignon Université, France)*
- **Program Co-Chairs:** *Nicholas Asher (CNRS, France) and Seokhwan Kim (Google Cloud AI, USA)*

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Conference Program

Day-1 Monday, August 27

9:50–10:20 *Opening*
General Chairs

10:20–11:40 **Oral session 1: Discourse**

Investigating Co-Constructive Behavior of Large Language Models in Explanation Dialogues

Leandra Fichtel, Maximilian Spliethöver, Eyke Hüllermeier, Patricia Jimenez, Nils Klowitz, Stefan Kopp, Axel-Cyrille Ngonga Ngomo, Amelie Robrecht, Ingrid Scharlau, Lutz Terfloth, Anna-Lisa Vollmer and Henning Wachsmuth

Modeling Turn-Taking Speed and Speaker Characteristics

Kazuyo Onishi, Hien Ohnaka and Koichiro Yoshino

Zero-Shot Evaluation of Conversational Language Competence in Data-Efficient LLMs Across English, Mandarin, and French

Sheng-Fu Wang, Ri-Sheng Huang, Shu-Kai HSIEH and Laurent Prévot

Multi-Lingual Implicit Discourse Relation Recognition with Multi-Label Hierarchical Learning

Nelson Filipe Costa and Leila Kosseim

11:40–13:00 *Lunch in the garden*

13:00–14:20 **Oral session 2: Task-oriented Dialogue**

clem:todd: A Framework for the Systematic Benchmarking of LLM-Based Task-Oriented Dialogue System Realisations

Chalamalasetti Kranti, Sherzod Hakimov and David Schlangen

PyTOD: Programmable Task-Oriented Dialogue with Execution Feedback

Alexandru Coca, Bo-Hsiang Tseng, Peter Boothroyd, Jianpeng Cheng, Zhenxing Zhang, Mark Gaynor, Joe Stacey, Tristan Guigue, Héctor Martínez Alonso, Diarmuid Ó Séaghdha and Anders Johannsen

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Spec-TOD: A Specialized Instruction-Tuned LLM Framework for Efficient Task-Oriented Dialogue Systems

Vinh Quang Nguyen, Nguyen Quang Chieu, Hoang Viet Pham and Khac-Hoai Nam Bui

Day-1 Monday, August 27 (continued)

15:00 *Coffee break*
14:20

15:00–17:00 Poster session 1

Prompt-Guided Turn-Taking Prediction

Koji Inoue, Mikey Elmers, Yahui Fu, Zi Haur Pang, Divesh Lala, Keiko Ochi and Tatsuya Kawahara

Speech-Integrated Modeling for Behavioral Coding in Counseling

Do June Min, Verónica Pérez-Rosas, Kenneth Resnicow and Rada Mihalcea

When a Dialog becomes a Monologue: A debate on custom-made literature with generative AI

Maja Tabea Jerrentrup and Martin F. Villalba

Analyzing Dialogue System Behavior in a Specific Situation Requiring Interpersonal Consideration

Tetsuro Takahashi, Hirofumi Kikuchi, Jie Yang, Hiroyuki Nishikawa, Masato Komuro, Ryosaku Makino, Shiki Sato, Yuta Sasaki, Shinji Iwata, Asahi Hentona, Takato Yamazaki, Shoji Moriya, Masaya Ohagi, Zhiyang Qi, Takashi Kodama, Akinobu Lee, Takashi Minato, Kurima Sakai, Tomo Funayama, Kotaro Funakoshi, Mayumi Usami, Michimasa Inaba and Ryuichiro Higashinaka

Synthetic Data Augmentation for Cross-domain Implicit Discourse Relation Recognition

Frances Yung, Varsha Suresh, Zaynab Reza, Mansoor Ahmad and Vera Demberg

Segmenting a Large French Meeting Corpus into Elementary Discourse Units

Laurent Prévot, Roxane Bertrand and Julie Hunter

How Stylistic Similarity Shapes Preferences in Dialogue Dataset with User and Third Party Evaluations

Ikumi Numaya, Shoji Moriya, Shiki Sato, Reina Akama and Jun Suzuki

LLMs stick to the point, humans to style: Semantic and Stylistic Alignment in Human and LLM Communication

Noé Durandard, Saurabh Dhawan and Thierry Poibeau

A Topicality-Driven QUD Model for Discourse Processing

Yingxue Fu, Mark-Jan Nederhof and Anais Ollagnier

A Multi-Task and Multi-Label Classification Model for Implicit Discourse Relation Recognition

Nelson Filipe Costa and Leila Kosseim

Day-1 Monday, August 27 (continued)

A Multi-Layered Annotation Protocol for Polyadic Conversation: Structuring Interactional Data in the GaMMA Corpus

Mark Dourado, Frej Spangsberg Lorenzen, Jesper Udesen, Henrik Gert Hassager and Stefania Serafin

Early Humorous Interaction: Towards a Formal Model

Yingqin Hu, Jonathan Ginzburg and Catherine Pelachaud

Transition Relevance Point Detection for Spoken Dialogue Systems with Self-Attention Transformer

Kouki Miyazawa and Yoshinao Sato

Identification and Analysis of Identity-Centric Elements of Character-Likeness in Game Scenario

Shinji Iwata, Koya Ihara, Shiki Sato, Jun Baba, Asahi Hentona, Masahiro Yamazaki, Yuki Shiotsuka, Takahiro Ishizue and Akifumi Yoshimoto

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Oussama Silem, Maïwenn Fleig, Philippe Blache, Houda Oufaida and Leonor Becerra-Bonache

DIMSUM: Discourse in Mathematical Reasoning as a Supervision Module

Krish Sharma, Niyar R. Barman, Akshay Chaturvedi and Nicholas Asher

Improving LLMs' Learning of Coreference Resolution

Yujian Gan, Yuan Liang, Yanni Lin, Juntao Yu and Massimo Poesio

Exploring the Design of Multi-Agent LLM Dialogues for Research Ideation

Keisuke Ueda, Wataru Hirota, Kosuke Takahashi, Takahiro Omi, Kosuke Arima and Tatsuya Ishigaki

EmoNews: A Spoken Dialogue System for Expressive News Conversations

Ryuki Matsuura, Shikhar Bharadwaj, Jiarui Liu and Dhatchinamoorthi Kunde Govindarajan

17:00–18:00 *Keynote 1: Are there purely multi-turn "dialog failures"? by Chris Welty*

18:00–20:00 *Welcome Reception "Le cloître", Avignon Université. Démo of Mirokai by ERM*

Day-2 Tuesday, August 28

9:00–10:20 Oral session 3: Persona

Distilling Empathy from Large Language Models

Henry J. Xie, Jinghan Zhang, Xinhao Zhang and Kunpeng Liu

RaPSIL: A PreferenceGuided Interview Agent for RapportAware SelfDisclosure

Kenta Hama, Atsushi Otsuka, Masahiro Mizukami, Hiroaki Sugiyama and makoto naka

Learning to Speak Like a Child: Reinforcing and Evaluating a Child-level Generative Language Model

Enoch Levandovsky, Anna Manaseryan and Casey Kennington

Beyond Simple Personas: Evaluating LLMs and Relevance Models for Character-Consistent Dialogue

Debaditya Pal and David Traum

10:20–10:40 Coffee break

10:40–11:40 Keynote 2: Interactive Task Learning by Alex Lascarides

11:40–13:00 Lunch in the garden

Day-2 Tuesday, August 28 (continued)

13:00–14:00 Oral session 4: ML

DiaTool-DPO: Multi-Turn Direct Preference Optimization for Tool-Augmented Large Language Models

Sunghee Jung, Donghun Lee, Shinbok Lee, Gaeun Seo, Daniel Lee, Byeongil Ko, Junrae Cho, Kihyun Kim, EungGyun Kim and Myeongcheol Shin

EMORL: Ensemble Multi-Objective Reinforcement Learning for Efficient and Flexible LLM Fine-Tuning

Lingxiao Kong, Cong Yang, Susanne Neufang, Oya Deniz Beyan and Zeyd Boukhers

Learning to Ask Efficiently in Dialogue: Reinforcement Learning Extensions for Stream-based Active Learning

Issei Waki, Ryu Takeda and Kazunori Komatani

14:00–15:00 Oral session 5: Multimodal

Human Capital Visualization using Speech Amount during Meetings

Ekai Hashimoto, Kohei Nagira, Takeshi Mizumoto and Shun Shiramatsu

Key Challenges in Multimodal Task-Oriented Dialogue Systems: Insights from a Large Competition-Based Dataset

Shiki Sato, Shinji Iwata, Asahi Hentona, Yuta Sasaki, Takato Yamazaki, Shoji Moriya, Masaya Ohagi, Hirofumi Kikuchi, Jie Yang, Zhiyang Qi, Takashi Kodama, Akinobu Lee, Masato Komuro, Hiroyuki Nishikawa, Ryosaku Makino, Takashi Minato, Kurima Sakai, Tomo Funayama, Kotaro Funakoshi, Mayumi Usami, Michimasa Inaba, Tetsuro Takahashi and Ryuichiro Higashinaka

Exploring Factors Influencing Hospitality in Mobile Robot Guidance: A Wizard-of-Oz Study with a Teleoperated Humanoid Robot

Ao Guo, Shota Mochizuki, Sanae Yamashita, Saya Nikaido, Tomoko Isomura and Ryuichiro Higashinaka

15:00–15:30 Coffee break

Day-2 Tuesday, August 28 (continued)

15:30–17:30 Poster & Demo session 2

ClickAgent: Enhancing UI Location Capabilities of Autonomous Agents

Jakub Hoscilowicz and Artur Janicki

Exploring the Limits of Model Compression in LLMs: A Knowledge Distillation Study on QA Tasks

Joyeeta Datta, Niclas Doll, Qusai Ramadan and Zeyd Boukhers

On Speakers' Identities, Autism Self-Disclosures and LLM-Powered Robots

Sviatlana Hoehn, Fred Philippy and Elisabeth Andre

Intent Recognition and Out-of-Scope Detection using LLMs in Multi-party Conversations

Galo Castillo-López, Gaël de Chalendar and Nasredine Semmar

Retrieving Relevant Knowledge Subgraphs for Task-Oriented Dialogue

Nicholas Thomas Walker, Pierre Lison, Laetitia Hilgendorf, Nicolas Wagner and Stefan Ultes

Towards conversational assistants for health applications: using ChatGPT to generate conversations about heart failure

Anuja Tayal, Devika Salunke, Barbara Di Eugenio, Paula Allen-Meares, Eulalia Puig Abril, Olga Garcia-Bedoya, Carolyn Dickens and Andrew Boyd

Dialogue Scaffolding: Producing a Realistic Corpus of Human-Computer Open-Domain Dialogues Using a Spoken Dialogue System and ChatGPT

Kevin Bowden and Marilyn Walker

Multi-step or Direct: A Proactive Home-Assistant System Based on Commonsense Reasoning

Konosuke Yamasaki, Shohei Tanaka, Akishige Yuguchi, Seiya Kawano and Koichiro Yoshino

Role of Reasoning in LLM Enjoyment Detection: Evaluation Across Conversational Levels for Human-Robot Interaction

Lubos Marcinek, Bahar Irfan, Gabriel Skantze, Andre Pereira and Joakim Gustafsson

Integrating Physiological, Speech, and Textual Information Toward Real-Time Recognition of Emotional Valence in Dialogue

Jingjing Jiang, Ao Guo and Ryuichiro Higashinaka

Prompt-based Language Generation for Complex Conversational Coaching Tasks across Languages

Alain Vazquez Risco and Maria Ines Torres

Day-2 Tuesday, August 28 (continued)

DocCHA: Towards LLM-Augmented Interactive Online diagnosis System

Xinyi Liu, Dachun Sun, Yi Fung, Dilek Hakkani-Tur and Tarek F. Abdelzaher

Language Style Matching in Large Language Models

Noé Durandard, Saurabh Dhawan and Thierry Poibeau

rrSDS 2.0: Incremental, Modular, Distributed, Multimodal Spoken Dialogue with Robotic Platforms

Anna Manaseryan, Porter Rigby, Brooke Matthews, Catherine Henry, Josue Torres-Fonseca, Ryan Whetten, Enoch Levandovsky and Casey Kennington

19:00–20:00 *Visit of the Palace of the Popes (guided)*

20:00–01:00 *Banquet at the Palace of the Popes, with "apéritif" on Avignon's Bridge*

Day-3 Wednesday, August 27

9:00–10:20 **Oral session 6: Data**

Building Open-Retrieval Conversational Question Answering Systems by Generating Synthetic Data and Decontextualizing User Questions

Christos Vlachos, Nikolaos Stylianou, Alexandra Fiotaki, Spiros Methenitis, Elisavet Palogiannidi, Themis Stafylakis and Ion Androutsopoulos

DocTalk: Scalable Graph-based Dialogue Synthesis for Enhancing LLM Conversational Capabilities

Jing Yang JY Lee, Hamed Bonab, Nasser Zalmout, Ming Zeng, Sanket Lokegaonkar, Colin Lockard, Binxuan Huang, Ritesh Sarkhel and Haodong Wang

Generating Diverse Personas for User Simulators to Test Interview Dialogue Systems

Mikio Nakano, Kazunori Komatani and Hironori Takeuchi

Open-Source Large Language Models as Multilingual Crowdworkers: Synthesizing Open-Domain Dialogues in Several Languages With No Examples in Targets and No Machine Translation

Ahmed Njifenjou, Virgile Sucas, Bassam Jabaian and Fabrice Lefèvre

10:20–10:40 *Coffee break*

10:40–11:40 *Keynote 3: The Primary Role of Dialogue in Language Development A Perspective for AI by Abdellah Fourtassi*

Day-3 Wednesday, August 27 (continued)

11:40–13:00 *Lunch in the garden*

13:00–14:20 **Oral session 7: Applications**

Using LLMs to Grade Clinical Reasoning for Medical Students in Virtual Patient Dialogues

Jonathan Schiött, William Ivegren, Alexander Borg, Ioannis Parodis and Gabriel Skantze

Task Proficiency-Aware Dialogue Analysis in a Real-Time Cooking Game Environment

Kaito Nakae and Michimasa Inaba

Collaborative Problem-Solving in an Optimization Game

Isidora Jeknic, Alex Duchnowski and Alexander Koller

Evaluating Large Language Models for Enhancing Live Chat Therapy: A Comparative Study with Psychotherapists

Neha Pravin Deshpande, Stefan Hillmann and Sebastian Möller

14:20–15:00 *Panel Discussion*

15:00–15:30 *Coffee break*

15:30–16:30 *Business Meeting*

16:30–17:00 *Award & Closing*

