

StarSEM 2025

**The 14th Joint Conference on Lexical and Computational  
Semantics**

**Proceedings of the Conference (\*SEM 2025)**

November 8-9, 2025

The StarSEM organizers gratefully acknowledge the support from the following sponsors.

**Sponsored by**



©2025 Association for Computational Linguistics

Order copies of this and other ACL proceedings from:

Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)  
317 Sidney Baker St. S  
Suite 400 - 134  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
USA  
Tel: +1-855-225-1962  
[acl@aclweb.org](mailto:acl@aclweb.org)

ISBN 979-8-89176-340-1

## Preface by the Conference Organizers

We are excited to welcome you to \*SEM 2025, the 14th Joint Conference on Lexical and Computational Semantics! We are pleased to present this volume containing the accepted long and short papers. \*SEM 2025 is being held from November 8 to 9, 2025, in Suzhou, China, co-located with EMNLP 2025.

Since its first edition in 2012, \*SEM has become a major venue to present recent advances in all areas of lexical and computational semantics, including semantic representations, theoretical semantics, multilingual semantics, and others. \*SEM is sponsored by SIGLEX, the ACL Special Interest Group on the Lexicon.

\*SEM 2025 accepted both papers submitted directly to \*SEM and those already reviewed through ARR (ACL Rolling Review). We received submissions in 4 tracks:

- Empirical and data-driven approaches
- Theoretical aspects of computational semantics
- Applications or tools
- Resources and evaluation

We compiled an exciting and wide-ranging program, accepting a total of 35 papers (26 long papers and 9 short papers). The submitted papers were carefully evaluated by a program committee led by 10 area chairs, who coordinated a large team of reviewers. The reviews were almost all of very high-quality, and for that we are extremely grateful! Area chairs then added meta-reviews to explain their accept/reject decisions. The final selection was made by the program co-chairs after a careful check of the reviews, meta-reviews, and discussions with the area chairs.

We are also very excited to have three excellent keynote speakers: Yue Zhang from Westlake University, Tamar Solorio from Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI) and Yuki Arase from the Tokyo Institute of Technology.

We are honored to serve as the organizing committee for \*SEM 2025, and we absolutely could not have made this happen without a huge amount of help. First, tremendous thanks to all area chairs and reviewers for their invaluable help in selecting the program, for their engagement in thoughtful discussions, and for providing valuable feedback to authors. Second, thanks to our Publicity Chair Kemal Kurniawan (University of Melbourne) for taking care of the website and social media updates. Next, thanks to our Publication Chairs Danilo Croce (University of Rome) and Milad Alshomary (Columbia University) for putting together the proceedings, and to the EMNLP 2025 workshop organizers for help and support with all organizational aspects of the conference. Finally, thank you to the authors and presenters for making \*SEM 2025 such an engaging and exciting event! We hope that you will find the content of these proceedings as engaging as we do, and we hope to see you at future iterations of \*SEM!

Lea Frermann and Mark Stevenson, co-Program Chairs

Vered Shwartz, General Chair

# Organizing Committee

## **General Chair**

Vered Shwartz, University of British Columbia

## **Program Chairs**

Lea Frermann, University of Melbourne

Mark Stevenson, University of Sheffield

## **Publication Chairs**

Danilo Croce, University of Rome Tor Vergata

Milad Alshomary, Columbia University

## **Publicity Chair**

Kemal Kurniawan, University of Melbourne

## Program Committee

### Area Chairs

Steven Bethard, University of Arizona  
Lucia Donatelli, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam  
Fajri Koto, Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence  
Bridget McInnes, Virginia Commonwealth University  
Siyao Peng, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  
Jakob Prange, University of Augsburg  
Abhilasha Ravichander, University of Washington and Allen Institute for AI  
Harish Tayyar Madabushi, University of Bath  
Peter Vickers, Northeastern University  
Shira Wein, Amherst College

### Program Committee

Omri Abend, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Ameeta Agrawal, Portland State University  
Yuki Arase, Tokyo Institute of Technology  
Naomi Baes, University of Melbourne  
Timothy Baldwin, Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence and The University of Melbourne  
Mohamad Hardyman Barawi, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak  
Gábor Berend, University of Szeged  
Abhidip Bhattacharyya, University of Massachusetts at Amherst  
Eduardo Blanco, University of Arizona  
Michael Bloodgood, The College of New Jersey  
Joanne Boisson, Cardiff University  
Davide Buscaldi, Ecole polytechnique and Université Paris 13  
Ming-Bin Chen, University of Melbourne  
Mukund Choudhary, Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence  
Gabriella Chronis, University of Texas at Austin  
Paul Cook, University of New Brunswick  
Robin Cooper, University of Gothenburg  
Bonaventura Coppola, University of Trento  
Xingyu Deng, University of Sheffield  
Jakub Dotlacil, Utrecht University  
Bilal Elbouardi, Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence  
Katrín Erk, University of Texas, Austin  
Francis Ferraro, University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
Aaron Fletcher, University of Sheffield  
Colin Gordon, Drexel University  
Venkata Govindarajan, Ithaca College  
Alvin Grissom II, Haverford College  
Udo Hahn, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena  
Yoshihiko Hayashi, Waseda University  
Pingjun Hong, University of Vienna  
Antonio Jimeno Yepes, Unstructured Technologies  
Muhammad Kautsar, Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence

Halil Kilicoglu, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Alexander Koller, Saarland University  
Grzegorz Kondrak, University of Alberta  
Andrey Kutuzov, University of Oslo  
Kenneth Lai, Brandeis University and Mass General Brigham  
Els Lefever, Ghent University  
Xixian Liao, Barcelona Supercomputing Center  
Chunhua Liu, University of Melbourne  
Aso Mahmudi, University of Melbourne  
Eugenio Martínez-Cámara, Universidad de Jaén  
Yisong Miao, National University of Singapore  
Timothee Mickus, University of Helsinki  
Koji Mineshima, Keio University  
Amita Misra, Amazon  
Lawrence Moss, Indiana University at Bloomington  
Nurdaulet Mukhituly, Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence  
Nona Naderi, Université Paris-Saclay  
Danial Namazifard, University of Tehran  
Christina Niklaus, Universität St. Gallen  
Amy Olex, Virginia Commonwealth University  
Yulia Otmakhova, University of Melbourne  
Emerson Paraiso, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná  
Naiara Perez, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU)  
Francesco Periti, KU Leuven  
Massimo Poesio, Utrecht University and Queen Mary, University of London  
Giulia Rambelli, University of Bologna  
Leonardo Ranaldi, University of Edinburgh  
Kyle Richardson, Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence  
Juan Rodriguez, University of Texas at Austin  
Mehrnoosh Sadrzadeh, University College London  
Steven Schockaert, Cardiff University  
Sabine Schulte Im Walde, University of Stuttgart  
Melanie Siegel, Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences  
Elior Sulem, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Andon Tchechmedjiev, IMT Mines Alès  
Junior Tonga, Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence  
Thinh Truong, University of Melbourne  
L. Alfonso Ureña, Universidad de Jaén  
Sowmya Vajjala, National Research Council Canada  
Rossella Varvara, University of Turin  
Eva Vecchi, University of Stuttgart  
Serena Villata, CNRS  
Tak-Lam Wong, Douglas College  
Huiling You, University of Oslo  
Shijia Zhou, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

## Table of Contents

<i>ChengyuSTS: An Intrinsic Perspective on Mandarin Idiom Representation</i> Le Qiu, Emmanuele Chersoni and Aline Villavicencio .....	1
<i>Bridging Information Gaps with Comprehensive Answers: Improving the Diversity and Informativeness of Follow-Up Questions</i> Zhe Liu, Taekyu Kang, Haoyu Wang, Seyed Hossein Alavi and Vered Shwartz .....	13
<i>Injecting Frame Semantics into Large Language Models via Prompt-Based Fine-Tuning</i> Shahid Iqbal Rai, Danilo Croce and Roberto Basili .....	31
<i>From Complex Word Identification to Substitution: Instruction-Tuned Language Models for Lexical Simplification</i> Tonghui Han, Xinru Zhang, Yaxin Bi, Maurice D. Mulvenna and Dongqiang Yang .....	48
<i>Semantic Prosody in Machine Translation: the English-Chinese Case of Passive Structures</i> Xinyue Ma, Pol Pastells, Mariona Taulé Delor and Mireia Farrús .....	59
<i>Semantic Differentiation in Speech Emotion Recognition: Insights from Descriptive and Expressive Speech Roles</i> Rongchen Guo, Vincent Francoeur, Isar Nejadgholi, Sylvain Gagnon and Miodrag Bolic .....	70
<i>Generalizability of Media Frames: Corpus creation and analysis across countries</i> Agnese Daffara, Sourabh Dattawad, Sebastian Padó and Tanise Ceron .....	83
<i>Cross-Lingual Extractive Question Answering with Unanswerable Questions</i> Yuval Gorodissky, Elior Sulem and Dan Roth .....	100
<i>Evaluating Compositional Generalisation in VLMs and Diffusion Models</i> Beth Pearson, Bilal Boulbarss, Michael Wray and Martha Lewis .....	122
<i>On the Distinctive Co-occurrence Characteristics of Antonymy</i> Zhihan Cao, Hiroaki Yamada and Takenobu Tokunaga .....	134
<i>Evaluating Textual and Visual Semantic Neighborhoods of Abstract and Concrete Concepts</i> Sven Naber, Diego Frassinelli and Sabine Schulte Im Walde .....	142
<i>AmbiStory: A Challenging Dataset of Lexically Ambiguous Short Stories</i> Janosch Gehring and Michael Roth .....	152
<i>WiC Evaluation in Galician and Spanish: Effects of Dataset Quality and Composition</i> Marta Vázquez Abuín and Marcos Garcia .....	172
<i>Math Natural Language Inference: this should be easy!</i> Valeria de Paiva, Qiyue Gao, Hai Hu, Pavel Kovalev, Yikang Liu, Lawrence S. Moss and Zhiheng Qian .....	179
<i>All Entities are Not Created Equal: Examining the Long Tail for Ultra-Fine Entity Typing</i> Advait Deshmukh, Ashwin Umadi, Dananjay Srinivas and Maria Leonor Pacheco .....	189
<i>When Does Meaning Backfire? Investigating the Role of AMRs in NLI</i> Junghyun Min, Xiulin Yang and Shira Wein .....	202
<i>Explanations explained. Influence of Free-text Explanations on LLMs and the Role of Implicit Knowledge</i> Andrea Zaninello, Roberto Dessi, Malvina Nissim and Bernardo Magnini .....	212



<i>Latent Traits and Cross-Task Transfer: Deconstructing Dataset Interactions in LLM Fine-tuning</i> Shambhavi Krishna, Haw-Shiuan Chang and Taesung Lee .....	225
<i>LLMs as annotators of argumentation</i> Anna Lindahl .....	242
<i>If We May De-Presuppose: Robustly Verifying Claims through Presupposition-Free Question Decomposition</i> Shubhashis Roy Dipta and Francis Ferraro .....	253
<i>Modeling Language Learning in Corrective Feedback Interactions</i> Juan Luis Castro-Garcia and Parisa Kordjamshidi .....	267
<i>Relation-Aware Prompting Makes Large Language Models Effective Zero-shot Relation Extractors</i> Mahdi Rahimi, Razvan-Gabriel Dumitru and Mihai Surdeanu .....	280
<i>Enhancing Readability-Controlled Text Modification with Readability Assessment and Target Span Prediction</i> Liu Fengkai and John Sie Yuen Lee .....	293
<i>TAG-EQA: Text-And-Graph for Event Question Answering via Structured Prompting Strategies</i> Maithili Sanjay Kadam and Francis Ferraro .....	304
<i>DisCoCLIP: A Distributional Compositional Tensor Network Encoder for Vision-Language Understanding</i> Kin Ian Lo, Hala Hawashin, Mina Abbaszadeh, Tilen Gaetano Limbäck-Stokin, Hadi Wazni and Mehrnoosh Sadrzadeh .....	316
<i>HSGM: Hierarchical Segment-Graph Memory for Scalable Long-Text Semantics</i> Dong Liu and Yanxuan Yu .....	328
<i>Knowledge Editing Induces Underconfidence in Language Models</i> Ryo Hasegawa, Yusuke Sakai, Hidetaka Kamigaito and Taro Watanabe .....	338
<i>How Do Large Language Models Evaluate Lexical Complexity?</i> Abdelhak Keliou, Mathieu Constant and Christophe Coeur .....	348
<i>SAG: Enhancing Domain-Specific Information Retrieval with Semantic-Augmented Graphs</i> Carol-Luca Gasan and Vasile Pais .....	362
<i>Cross-Domain Persuasion Detection with Argumentative Features</i> Bagyasree Sudharsan and Maria Leonor Pacheco .....	372
<i>Hallucinated Span Detection with Multi-View Attention Features</i> Yuya Ogasa and Yuki Arase .....	381
<i>AdvERSEM: Adversarial Robustness Testing and Training of LLM-based Groundedness Evaluators via Semantic Structure Manipulation</i> Kaustubh Dhole, Ramraj Chandradevan and Eugene Agichtein .....	395
<i>Connecting Concept Layers and Rationales to Enhance Language Model Interpretability</i> Thomas Bailleux, Tanmoy Mukherjee, Pierre Marquis and Zied Bouraoui .....	409
<i>Towards Evaluation of Language Models with Skill Dimensions: A Case Study on Narrative Question Answering</i> Emil Kalbaliyev and Kairit Sirts .....	430
<i>Potentially Problematic Word Usages and How to Detect Them: A Survey</i> Aina Garí Soler, Matthieu Labeau and Chloé Clavel .....	441