

INLG 2017

**The 10th International
Natural Language Generation conference**

Proceedings of the Conference

September 4-7, 2017
Santiago de Compostela, Spain

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Introduction

Welcome to the Proceedings of the 10th International Natural Language Generation Conference (INLG 2017)! INLG is the annual meeting of the ACL Special Interest Group on Natural Language Generation (SIGGEN). The INLG conference provides the premier forum for the discussion, dissemination, and archiving of research and results in the field of Natural Language Generation (NLG). This edition is singular, since for the first time it absorbs under the INLG umbrella the former European Workshop on Natural Language Generation (ENLG) that was celebrated for many years. Previous INLG conferences have been held in Australia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, the UK and the USA. Prior to 2000, these meetings were held as international workshops with a history stretching back to 1983. In 2017, INLG was organized in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, a UNESCO World Heritage City since 1985. The venues were the School of Engineering and the Research Center in Information Tecnology of the University of Santiago de Compostela.

The INLG 2017 program included presentations of substantial, original, and previously unpublished results on all topics related to NLG. This year, INLG has hosted the following workshops on: Linguistic Resources for Automatic Natural Language Generation (LiRA 2017), Recent Advances in RST and Related Formalisms (RST 2017), Explainable Computational Intelligence (XCI 2017) and Computational Creativity in Natural Language Generation (CC-NLG).

This year we received 56 submissions (27 long papers, 23 short papers and 6 demos). 37 submissions were accepted, more specifically, 15 as long papers (11 oral presentations, 4 posters), 16 as short papers (3 oral presentations, 13 posters), and the 6 submitted demos. In addition, INLG 2017 included two invited talks by Gemma Boleda (Universitat Pompeu Fabra) and Frank Schilder (Thomson Reuters Research & Development). Also an invited tutorial by Ehud Reiter and the 2nd Edition of the SIGGEN Hackathon, organized by Yaji Sripada, were held during the Conference.

As the organizing committee, we would like to thank our invited speakers for agreeing to join us and to the authors of all submitted papers. In addition, we thank the program committee members and anonymous reviewers for their outstanding work. We have also received sponsorships from Arria, Accenture and Phrasee, for which we are extremely grateful. We hope that you have had an enjoyable and inspiring stay in Santiago de Compostela!

Jose M. Alonso, Alberto Bugarín and Ehud Reiter
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Alejandro Ramos-Soto
Alberto Bugarín

Invited Speakers:

Gemma Boleda (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)
Frank Schilder (Thomson Reuters Research & Development)

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Conference Program

Monday, September 4, 2017

8:30–9:00 Registration

**9:00–11:00 Workshop: Linguistic Resources for Automatic Natural Language Generation
(LiRA 2017)**

9:00–11:00 Workshop: Recent Advances in RST and Related Formalisms (RST 2017)

9:00–11:00 Workshop: Explainable Computational Intelligence (XCI 2017)

11:00–11:30 Coffee Break

**11:30–13:30 Workshop: Linguistic Resources for Automatic Natural Language Generation
(LiRA 2017)**

11:30–13:30 Workshop: Recent Advances in RST and Related Formalisms (RST 2017)

11:30–13:30 Workshop: Explainable Computational Intelligence (XCI 2017)

13:30–14:30 Lunch

Monday, September 4, 2017 (continued)

14:30–16:30 **Workshop: Recent Advances in RST and Related Formalisms (RST 2017)**

14:30–16:30 **Workshop: Computational Creativity in Natural Language Generation (CC-NLG)**

16:30–17:00 **Coffee Break**

17:00–19:00 **Workshop: Computational Creativity in Natural Language Generation (CC-NLG 2017)**

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

8:30–9:00 **Registration**

9:00–9:30 **Opening Ceremony**

9:30–11:00 **Oral Session 1 (Chair: Claire Gardent)**

9:30–10:00 *Linguistic realisation as machine translation: Comparing different MT models for AMR-to-text generation*
Thiago Castro Ferreira, Iacer Calixto, Sander Wubben and Emiel Krahmer

10:00–10:30 *A Survey on Intelligent Poetry Generation: Languages, Features, Techniques, Re-utilisation and Evaluation*
Hugo Gonçalo Oliveira

10:30–11:00 *Cross-linguistic differences and similarities in image descriptions*
Emiel van Miltenburg, Desmond Elliott and Piek Vossen

Tuesday, September 5, 2017 (continued)

11:00–11:30 Posters and Demos with Coffee (Part 1, Chair: Susana Bautista)

Content Selection for Real-time Sports News Construction from Commentary Texts

Jin-ge Yao, Jianmin Zhang, Xiaojun Wan and Jianguo Xiao

Improving the Naturalness and Expressivity of Language Generation for Spanish

Cristina Barros, Dimitra Gkatzia and Elena Lloret

What is the Role of Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) in an Image Caption Generator?

Marc Tanti, Albert Gatt and Kenneth Camilleri

Exploring the Behavior of Classic REG Algorithms in the Description of Characters in 3D Images

Gonzalo Méndez, Raquel Hervás, Susana Bautista, Adrian Rabadan and Teresa Rodriguez

Co-PoeTryMe: a Co-Creative Interface for the Composition of Poetry

Hugo Gonçalves Oliveira, Tiago Mendes and Ana Boavida

Refer-iTTS: A System for Referring in Spoken Installments to Objects in Real-World Images

Sina Zarrieß, M. Soledad López Gambino and David Schlangen

11:30–12:30 Invited Talk (Chair: Emiel Krahmer)

11:30–12:30 *Finding the "right" answers for customers*

Frank Schilder

Tuesday, September 5, 2017 (continued)

12:30–13:30 Oral Session 2 (Chair: Helmut Horacek)

12:30–13:00 *Referring Expression Generation under Uncertainty: Algorithm and Evaluation Framework*

Tom Williams and Matthias Scheutz

13:00–13:30 *Natural Language Descriptions for Human Activities in Video Streams*

Nouf Alharbi and Yoshihiko Gotoh

13:30–15:00 Lunch

15:00–16:00 Oral Session 3 (Chair: Amy Isard)

15:00–15:30 *PASS: A Dutch data-to-text system for soccer, targeted towards specific audiences*

Chris van der Lee, Emiel Kraemer and Sander Wubben

15:30–16:00 *Evaluation of a Runyankore grammar engine for healthcare messages*

Joan Byamugisha, C. Maria Keet and Brian DeRenzi

16:00–16:30 Hackathon Presentation with Coffee (Chair: Yaji Sripada)

16:30–18:00 Special session on getting NLG into widespread real-world usage (Chair: Ehud Reiter)

Tuesday, September 5, 2017 (continued)

20:30–21:30 Welcome Reception

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

9:00–10:00 Invited Talk (Chair: Jose M. Alonso)

9:00–10:00 *Talking about the world with a distributed model*
Gemma Boleda

10:00–11:00 Special Session on Generation Challenges (Chair: Albert Gatt)

The Code2Text Challenge: Text Generation in Source Libraries
Kyle Richardson, Sina Zarrieß and Jonas Kuhn

Shared Task Proposal: Multilingual Surface Realization Using Universal Dependency Trees
Simon Mille, Bernd Bohnet, Leo Wanner and Anja Belz

The WebNLG Challenge: Generating Text from RDF Data
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11:00–11:30 Posters and Demos with Coffee (Part 2, Chair: Simon Mille)

A Commercial Perspective on Reference
Ehud Reiter

Integrated sentence generation using charts
Alexander Koller and Nikos Engonopoulos

Adapting SimpleNLG to Spanish
Alejandro Ramos Soto, Julio Janeiro Gallardo and Alberto Bugarín Diz

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David Howcroft, Jorrig Vogels and Vera Demberg

Wednesday, September 6, 2017 (continued)

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Joan Byamugisha, C. Maria Keet and Brian DeRenzi

A working, non-trivial, topically indifferent NLG System for 17 languages
Robert Weißgraeber and Andreas Madsack

11:30–13:30 Oral Session 4 (Chair: Kees van Deemter)

11:30–12:00 *Generating titles for millions of browse pages on an e-Commerce site*
Prashant Mathur, Nicola Ueffing and Gregor Leusch

12:00–12:30 *Towards Automatic Generation of Product Reviews from Aspect-Sentiment Scores*
Hongyu Zang and Xiaojun Wan

12:30–13:00 *A model of suspense for narrative generation*
Richard Doust and Paul Piwek

13:00–13:30 *Data-Driven News Generation for Automated Journalism*
Leo Leppänen, Myriam Munezero, Mark Granroth-Wilding and Hannu Toivonen

13:30–15:00 Lunch

Wednesday, September 6, 2017 (continued)

15:00–16:00 Posters and Demos with Coffee (Part 3, Chair: Alejandro Ramos)

Data Augmentation for Visual Question Answering

Kushal Kafle, Mohammed Yousefhussien and Christopher Kanan

Personalized Questions, Answers and Grammars: Aiding the Search for Relevant Web Information

Marta Gatus

A Comparison of Neural Models for Word Ordering

Eva Hasler, Felix Stahlberg, Marcus Tomalin, Adria de Gispert and Bill Byrne

Investigating the content and form of referring expressions in Mandarin: introducing the Mtuna corpus

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Realization of long sentences using chunking

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A demo of FORGe: the Pompeu Fabra Open Rule-based Generator

Simon Mille and Leo Wanner

Wednesday, September 6, 2017 (continued)

16:00–17:00 Oral Session 5 (Chair: Alberto Bugarín)

16:00–16:20 *Referential Success of Set Referring Expressions with Fuzzy Properties*

Nicolas Marin, Gustavo Rivas-Gervilla and Daniel Sanchez

16:20–16:40 *Neural Response Generation for Customer Service based on Personality Traits*

Jonathan Herzig, Michal Shmueli-Scheuer, Tommy Sandbank and David Konopnicki

16:40–17:00 *Neural Paraphrase Generation using Transfer Learning*

Florin Brad and Traian Rebedea

18:00–19:30 INLG Group Photo and Guided Tour to the Old City

21:00–23:30 Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony

Thursday, September 7, 2017

9:00–11:00 Invited Tutorial on Evaluating Natural Language Generation Systems, by Ehud Reiter (Part 1)

11:00–11:30 Coffee Break

Thursday, September 7, 2017 (continued)

11:30–13:30 Invited Tutorial on Evaluating Natural Language Generation Systems, by Ehud Reiter (Part 2)

13:30–14:30 Lunch

14:30–16:30 2nd SIGGEN Hackathon (Part 1)

16:30–17:00 Coffee Break

17:00–19:00 2nd SIGGEN Hackathon (Part 2)

