

WiNLP 2024

**The 8th Widening NLP Workshop**

**Proceedings of the Workshop**

November 15, 2024

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## Introduction

With open arms, we welcome every voice,  
In unity, we make inclusion our choice.

Welcome to 2024 Widening NLP Workshop!

In 2016, a small group gathered at ACL in Berlin to discuss the underrepresentation of women and other minorities in the Natural Language Processing (NLP) community. From that meeting, the first Workshop for Women and Underrepresented Minorities in NLP emerged at ACL 2017—a space specifically created to spotlight the work of communities whose contributions are often overlooked. We are proud to continue this vital tradition with the 2024 Widening NLP workshop.

Each year, we work to make this workshop more inclusive. Following the inaugural 2017 event, we introduced two submission deadlines—an early one to support those needing extra time for visa applications, and a later one for those without such constraints. Building on the success of the 2018 workshop, in 2019 we expanded our focus to also celebrate diversity in scientific backgrounds, disciplines, training, degrees, and seniority. We also introduced a peer feedback system, allowing authors to receive input from their colleagues before formal reviews. The global pandemic brought new challenges, canceling in-person events, but it also provided an opportunity to further widen participation. Since 2021, we have embraced the hybrid format, allowing us to reach a broader audience while continuing to support in-person attendees. We have also repurposed our travel funds to assist with high-speed internet access and registration fees, enabling even more people to join our virtual workshop.

In 2024, we are excited to present a diverse array of talent. Out of 70 submissions, we accepted 28, with a majority coming from underrepresented countries and female authors. We are proud to have two great invited speakers - Danish Pruthi and Alham Fikri Aji, as well as ten excellent panelists spanning across two panel discussions - Sunipa Dev, Khyati Chandu, Dirk Hovy, Monojit Choudhury, Malihe Alikhani, Abhilasha Ravichander, Sunayana Sitaram, Isabelle Augenstein, Lu wang, Mrinmaya Sachan.

We thus proudly present the 2024 Widening NLP workshop, and hope that you will enjoy the wonderful work of the authors, speakers, and panelists of this edition of the workshop.

-Atnafu, Alfredo, Chanjun, Hellina, Santosh, Tanvi and Wiem, Organizing Co-Chairs

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## Keynote Talk

# Richer Output for Richer Countries - Geographical Disparities in Language and Image Generation

Danish Pruthi

Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore

**Abstract:** At the height of excitement surrounding “Generative AI,” and assurances of intelligence that benefits “all of humanity”, it is critical to ask whether AI models adequately serve the needs of a geographically-diverse population. Through a series of studies on text-to-image and language models, I will present how current AI models (i) fail to produce geographically-representative images of common entities; (ii) systematically erase certain countries from their outputs; and (iii) generate stories and travel recommendations that are less unique and informative for poorer countries. Lastly, I will highlight the need for better understanding datasets used to train models, and present preliminary work to geographically profile datasets.

**Bio:** Danish Pruthi is an Assistant Professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. He received his Ph.D. from the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. He is broadly interested in the areas of natural language processing and deep learning, with a focus towards inclusive development and evaluation of AI models. He completed his bachelors degree in computer science from BITS Pilani, Pilani. He is also a recipient of the Schmidt Sciences AI2050 Early Career Fellowship, Siebel Scholarship, the CMU Presidential Fellowship and industry awards from Google and Adobe Inc. Until recently, his legal name was only Danish—an “edge case” for many deployed NLP systems, leading to airport quagmires and, in equal parts, funny anecdotes.



## Keynote Talk

# Collaborative Multilingual Data Collection

**Alham Fikri Aji**

Mohammed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence

**Abstract:** One of the most significant challenges in multilingual NLP is the scarcity of data, especially data that accurately reflects local nuances. Machine-translated datasets often fail to capture these subtleties. In this keynote, we delve into approaches to data construction that directly involve native speakers and local communities, highlighting both the potential benefits and the obstacles of this methodology. We place special emphasis on strategies that empower data collectors with ownership over the data, moving beyond the traditional one-time, transactional role of annotators.

**Bio:** Alham Fikri Aji is an assistant professor of Natural Language Processing at Mohammed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI), Abu Dhabi. His research focuses on multilingual and cross-lingual NLP, particularly for under-resourced languages and communities. He has experience in constructing culturally nuanced datasets for NLP, including collaborative efforts in data creation. He is an active member of the South-East Asia NLP community, SEACrowd.

# Keynote Talk

## Global Voices - Celebrating Diversity in Minds, Methods and MultiLingualism (Panel)

Sunipa Dev, Khyati Raghavi Chandu, Dirk Hovy, Monojit Choudhury, Malihe Alikhani

### Bio:

#### Sunipa Dev

Sunipa Dev is a Senior Research Scientist at Google Research, working at the intersection of language, society, and technology. Previously, she was an NSF Computing Innovation Fellow at UCLA, before which she completed her PhD from the University of Utah. Her research strives to ground evaluations of generative AI, especially language technologies in real world experiences of people, and foster inclusion of diverse, cross-cultural, and marginalized perspectives into AI pipelines. Her work has been awarded with an Outstanding Paper award ACL 2023, the NSF CI Fellows Award and DAAD AINet Award 2021, and she has been named one of 100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics in 2022. She is also an advisor for the Widening NLP at \*CL conferences which argues the importance of diversity and inclusion in NLP for better technologies of the future.

#### Khyati Raghavi Chandu

Khyathi Chandu is an AI Research Scientist at the Mistral. Prior to this, she worked at the Allen Institute for AI (AI2) and Meta AI. She was a visiting professor at the Jio Institute. Her research primarily focuses on building reliable, contextual, and trustworthy multimodal models, and interactive agents for complex reasoning and training large language models. She is a part of the teams that developed the open LLM from AI2, model alignment, large scale pretraining data, and other evaluation benchmarks. She completed her Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University on grounded multimodal long-form generation from the Language Technologies Institute advised by Alan W. Black, Eric Nyberg and Yonatan Bisk. She is selected as a Rising Star by UC Berkeley EECS in 2020, led the team that won the sixth edition of the BioAsq Challenge and was awarded the Best All-Rounder Student in her undergraduation. She is active in the NLP community, serving as an Area Chair at NeurIPS, COLM, ACL ARR. She actively also organized several workshops on generation at \*CL conferences.

#### Dirk Hovy

Dirk Hovy is a Professor in the Computing Sciences Department of Bocconi University, and the scientific director of the Data and Marketing Insights research unit. He holds a PhD in NLP from USC's Information Sciences Institute, and a master's degree in linguistics from Marburg University in Germany. Dirk is interested in what computers can tell us about language, and what language can tell us about society. He is also interested in ethical questions of bias and algorithmic fairness in machine learning. He has authored over 150 articles on these topics, including 3 best and one outstanding paper awards, and published two textbooks on NLP in Python for social scientists. Dirk has co-founded and organized several workshops (on computational social science, and ethics and cultural aspects in NLP), and was a local organizer for the EMNLP 2017 conference. He was awarded an ERC Starting Grant project 2020 for research on demographic bias in NLP. Outside of work, Dirk enjoys cooking, leather-crafting, and picking up heavy things just to put them back down.

#### Monojit Choudhury

Monojit Choudhury is a professor of Natural Language Processing at Mohommed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI), Abu Dhabi. Prior to this, he was a principal scientist at Microsoft Research Lab and Microsoft Turing, India. He is also a professor of practice at Plaksha University, and an adjunct professor at IIIT Hyderabad. Prof Choudhury's research interests lie in the intersection of NLP, Social and Cultural aspects of Technology use, and Ethics. In particular, he has been working on multilin-

gual and multicultural aspects of large language models (LLMs), their use in low resource languages and making LLMs more inclusive and safer by addressing bias and fairness aspects. Prof Choudhury is the general chair of Indian national linguistics Olympiad and the founding co-chair of Asia-Pacific linguistics Olympiad. He holds a BTech and PhD degree in Computer Science and Engineering from IIT Kharagpur.

### **Malihe Alikhani**

Malihe Alikhani is an assistant professor of AI and social justice at the Khoury School of Computer Science at Northeastern University and a member of the Northeastern Ethics Institute. She is also a Cultural Competence in Computing (3C) fellow. Her work focuses on studying and addressing biases in learning models, particularly in applications related to education, health, and social justice. This goal has led her to collaborate with educators, healthcare experts, and community leaders to create inclusive, technology-enabled experiences. Alikhani's research aims to design inclusive and equitable language technologies that effectively communicate across diverse populations, with a special focus on underserved communities. By integrating insights from cognitive science, neuroscience, philosophy, policy, and social sciences with machine learning techniques, she develops computational models that capture the rich diversity of human interpretation and enhance the communicative power of language.

# Keynote Talk

## Sailing the NLP Seas - Navigating Research in the Age of LLMs (Panel)

Abhilasha Ravichandran, Sunayana Sitaram, Isabelle Augenstein, Lu Wang, Mrinmaya Sachan

### Bio:

#### Abhilasha Ravichandran

Abhilasha Ravichander is a postdoctoral scholar at the Paul G. Allen Center for Computer Science and Engineering at University of Washington. She received her PhD from Carnegie Mellon University. Abhilasha is broadly interested in Natural Language Processing (NLP) and her research addresses the robustness and interpretability of NLP systems, with a focus on analyzing, evaluating, and improving models and datasets.

#### Sunayana Sitaram

Sunayana Sitaram is a Principal Researcher at Microsoft Research India. Her research goal is to make AI more inclusive to everyone on the planet by improving the evaluation, quality and safety of Language Models on all languages. Sunayana served as the director of the MSR India Research Fellow program (2022-2024), which exposes bright young researchers to a world-class research environment and prepares them for careers in research, engineering and entrepreneurship. Prior to joining MSRI as a Post Doc Researcher in 2016, Sunayana completed her MS and PhD at the Language Technologies Institute, Carnegie Mellon University in 2015. Sunayana's research has been published in top NLP and ML conferences including \*ACL, EMNLP, NeurIPS, Interspeech, ICASSP and she regularly serves in the program committee of these conferences. In 2023, she served as Industry track co-chair and Senior Area Chair for ACL 2023 and EMNLP 2023, and in 2024 she served as Area Chair at CoLM. She has organized special sessions and workshops on under-resourced languages, code-switching, multilingual evaluation and speech for social good. She has also led the creation of several benchmarks and datasets in code-switching, speech recognition and speech synthesis that have been used by research groups all over the world.

#### Isabelle Augenstein

Isabelle Augenstein is a Professor at the University of Copenhagen, Department of Computer Science, where she heads the Copenhagen Natural Language Understanding research group as well as the Natural Language Processing section. Her main research interests are fair and accountable NLP, including challenges such as explainability, factuality and bias detection. Prior to starting a faculty position, she was a postdoctoral researcher at University College London, and before that a PhD student at the University of Sheffield. In October 2022, Isabelle Augenstein became Denmark's youngest ever female full professor. She currently holds a prestigious ERC Starting Grant on 'Explainable and Robust Automatic Fact Checking', as well as the Danish equivalent of that, a DFF Sapere Aude Research Leader fellowship on 'Learning to Explain Attitudes on Social Media'. She is a member of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, and President of SIGDAT, which organises the EMNLP conference series.

#### Lu Wang

Lu Wang is an Associate Professor in Computer Science and Engineering at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Previously, she was an Assistant Professor in Khoury College of Computer Sciences at Northeastern University. She received her Ph.D. in Computer Science from Cornell University and her bachelor degrees in Intelligent Science and Technology and Economics from Peking University. Her research focuses on natural language processing, in particular building trustworthy language models (LMs) that offer factual, accurate, safe, and fair uses, and developing reliable evaluations for them. She has also been working on building AI applications for education and computational social science. Lu received

an area chair award at ACL 2024, a best paper honorable mention award at CHI 2023, an outstanding paper award at ACL 2017, and a best paper nomination award at SIGDIAL 2012. She won the NSF CAREER award in 2021. Lu co-founded ACL Special Interest Group on Summarization (SIGSUMM). Lu serves as Program co-Chair of NAACL 2025. She currently serves as ACL Equity Director.

### **Mrinmaya Sachan**

Mrinmaya Sachan is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at ETH Zurich. His research is in the area of Natural language processing and the interface of Machine learning and Education. Prior to this position, Mrinmaya was a Research Assistant Professor at TTI Chicago. Before that, he received a Ph.D. from the Machine Learning Department at CMU and a B.Tech. in Computer Science from IIT Kanpur where he received an Academic Excellence Award. He has received several awards for his work, including outstanding paper awards at ACL and EMNLP, an IBM PhD fellowship, the Siebel scholarship and the CMU CMLH fellowship. His current research is funded by grants from the Swiss National Science Foundation, the ETH Zurich foundation and Haslerstiftung.

# Program

**Friday, November 15, 2024**

09:00 - 09:10     *Opening Remarks*

09:10 - 10:10     *Keynote A*

10:10 - 11:00     *Poster Session A*

*EgoThink: Evaluating First-Person Perspective Thinking Capability of Vision-Language Models*

Sijie Cheng

*A Comparative Study of Using Pre-trained Language Models for Mental Health-care Q&A Classification in Arabic*

Ashwag Alasmari and Hassan Alhuzali

*Document Classification for the Under-resourced Amharic Language*

Michael Melese Woldeyohannis

*Jack and the BeansTALK : Towards Question Answering in Plant Biology*

Gaganpreet Jhajj and Yumeko Nomura

*The faces of Latin American research on computational linguistics*

Fabián Villena and Jocelyn Dunstan

*Probing the Robustness of Theory of Mind in Large Language Models*

Laura Schrewe, Christian Nickel and Lucie Flek

*On the Importance of Nuanced Taxonomies for LLM-Based Understanding of Harmful Events: A Case Study on Antisemitism*

Karina H Halevy, Julia Mendelsohn, Naomi Younger, Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, Chan Young Park, Yulia Tsvetkov and Maarten Sap

*Machine Translation Hallucination Detection for Low and High Resource Languages using Large Language Models*

Laura Gongas, Kenza Benkirane, Shahar Pelles, Naomi Fuchs, Joshua Darmon, Pontus Stenetorp, David Ifeoluwa Adelani and Eduardo Sánchez

*Biomedical Entity Representation with Graph-Augmented Multi-Objective Transformer*

Elena Tutubalina and Andrey Sakhovskiy

**Friday, November 15, 2024 (continued)**

*Focused ReAct: Improving ReAct through Reiterate and Early Stop*

Shuoqiu Li, Han Xu and Haipeng Chen

11:00 - 12:00 *Panel A*

12:00 - 12:45 *Virtual Poster Session*

*Evaluating Large Language Models for Summarizing Bangla Texts*

Mohammad Abu Tareq Rony and Mohammad Shariful Islam

*Enhancing Amharic Sentence Segmentation with Prosodic Features and Neural Network Models*

Rahel Mekonen Tamiru, Hana Mekonen Tamiru and Abel Mulat Alemu

*BanVATLLM and BanTSS: A Multimodal Framework and a Dataset for Detecting Toxic Speech in Bangla and Bangla-English Videos*

Mohammad Shariful Islam and Mohammad Abu Tareq Rony

*AGE: Amharic, Ge'ez and English Parallel Dataset*

Henok Biadgign Ademtew and Mikiyas Girma Birbo

*Instruct-DeBERTa: A Hybrid Approach for Enhanced Aspect-Based Sentiment Analysis with Category Extraction*

Dineth Jayakody, Koshila Isuranda, Malkith AVA, Nisansa De Silva, G G N Sandamali, K L K Sudheera and Sachintha Rajith Ponnampuruma

*Improving Language Modeling by Increasing Test-time Planning Compute*

Florian Mai, Nathan Cornille and Marie-Francine Moens

*Farsi Review Rating Prediction Using Prompt Engineering and RAG*

Vanooshe Nazari, Alireza Moradi, Sauleh Eetemadi and Mohammad Fathian

*News Headline Generation in Telugu*

Likhita Sunkari and Abhik Jana

*Exploring Robustness of Multilingual LLMs on Real-World Noisy Data*

Amirhossein Aliakbarzadeh, Lucie Flek and Akbar Karimi

**Friday, November 15, 2024 (continued)**

12:45 - 13:30 *Lunch*

13:30 - 14:10 *Mentorship Session*

14:10 - 15:10 *Panel B*

15:10 - 16:00 *Poster Session B*

*Developing Language Technology and NLP tools for endangered languages: Torwali*

Naeem Uddin and Inam Ullah

*EthiopicEmotion: Multi-label Emotion Dataset with Large Language Models Evaluation*

Tadesse Destaw Belay and Olga Kolesnikova

*Enhanced Detection of Conversational Mental Manipulation Through Advanced Prompting Techniques*

Ivory Yang, Xiaobo Guo, Sean Xie and Soroush Vosoughi

*CROSS-JEM: Accurate and Efficient Cross-encoders for Short-text Ranking Tasks*

Bhawna Paliwal, Deepak Saini, Mudit Dhawan, Siddarth Asokan, Nagarajan Natarajan, Surbhi Aggarwal, Pankaj Malhotra, Jian Jiao and Manik Varma

*Analyzing the Leakage of Personal Information in Synthetic Clinical Spanish Texts*

Luis Miranda, Jocelyn Dunstan, Matías Toro, Federico Olmedo and Felix Melo

*Investigating Hate Speech Beyond Detection and Classification: Uncovering Complex Intensities and Targets*

Abinew Ali Ayele, Esubalew Alemneh Jalew, Adem Chanie Ali and Seid Muhie Yimam

*Framing Social Movements on Social Media: Unpacking Diagnostic, Prognostic, and Motivational Strategies*

Julia Mendelsohn, Maya Vijan, Dallas Card and Ceren Budak

*Automatic Metrics in Natural Language Generation: A Survey of Current Evaluation Practices*

Patrícia Schmidtová, Saad Mahamood, Simone Balloccu, Ondrej Dusek, Albert Gatt, Dimitra Gkatzia, David M Howcroft, Ondrej Plátek and Adarsa Sivaprasad



**Friday, November 15, 2024 (continued)**

*Emotion-Annotated Data in NLP: Perspectives on Recent Resources and Practices*

Anna Koufakou and Elijah Nieve

16:00 - 17:00 *Keynote B*

17:00 - 17:10 *Closing Remarks & Best Poster Award*

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