



**Proceedings of the Fourth Joint Conference on
Lexical and Computational Semantics (*SEM 2015)**

June 4–5, 2015
Denver, Colorado, USA

Acknowledgements

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***SEM 2015: Joint Conference on Lexical and Computational Semantics**

The **Joint Conference on Lexical and Computational Semantics (*SEM)** provides a forum of exchange for the growing number of NLP researchers working on different aspects of semantic processing. After the previous editions of *SEM in Montreal (2012), Atlanta (2013), and Dublin (2014), the 2015 edition will take place in Denver on June 4 and 5 and is colocated with SemEval and NAACL. As in 2014 at COLING, also on this occasion *SEM and SemEval chose to coordinate their programs by featuring a joint invited talk. In this way, *SEM aims to bring together the ACL SIGLEX and ACL SIGSEM communities.

The acceptance rate of *SEM 2015 was quite competitive: out of 98 submissions, we accepted 36 papers for an overall acceptance of 37%. The acceptance rate of long paper that were accepted for oral presentation (18 out of 62) is 29%. The papers cover a wide range of topics including distributional semantics; lexical semantics and lexical acquisition; formal and linguistic semantics; discourse semantics; lexical resources, linked data and ontologies; semantics for applications; and extra-propositional semantics: sentiment and figurative meaning.

The *SEM 2015 program consists of oral presentations for selected long papers and a poster session for long and short papers.

Day One, June 4th:

- Joint *SEM SemEval keynote talk by **Marco Baroni**;
- Oral presentation sessions on distributional semantics, lexical semantics, and extra-propositional semantics;
- Poster session.

Day Two, June 5th:

- Keynote talk by **Preslav Natkov**;
- Oral presentation sessions on semantics for applications, lexical resources and ontologies, formal semantics, and discourse semantics;
- *SEM Best Paper Award.

We cannot finish without saying that *SEM 2015 would not have been possible without the considerable efforts of our area chairs, their reviewers, and the computational semantics community in general.

We hope you will enjoy *SEM 2015,

Martha Palmer, University of Colorado Boulder, General Chair
Gemma Boleda, University of Trento, Program Co-Chair
Paolo Rosso, Universitat Politècnica de València, Program Co-Chair

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Lexical resources, linked data, ontologies:

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Formal and linguistic semantics:

Aurelie Herbelot, University of Cambridge

Discourse semantics:

Graeme Hirst, University of Toronto

Semantics for applications (textual entailment, IE, QA, summarization, social media):

Alessandro Moschitti, Qatar Computing Research Institute

Extra-propositional semantics (sentiment, metaphor, irony, figurative meanings, etc.):

Tony Veale, University College Dublin

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Conference Program

Thursday, June 4

08:50–10:30 **Block 1 - Distributional semantics**

Session Chair: Martha Palmer

08:50–09:00 *Welcome*

09:00–10:00 Joint *SEM / SemEval keynote talk by **Marco Baroni**

Playing ficles and running with the corbons: What (multimodal) distributional semantic models learn during their childhood

10:00–10:30 *Neural Networks for Integrating Compositional and Non-compositional Sentiment in Sentiment Composition*

Xiaodan Zhu, Hongyu Guo and Parinaz Sobhani

10:30–11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00–12:30 **Block 2 - Distributional semantics**

Session Chair: Ed Grefenstette

11:00–11:30 *Compositional Distributional Semantics with Long Short Term Memory*

Phong Le and Willem Zuidema

11:30–12:00 *A Hybrid Distributional and Knowledge-based Model of Lexical Semantics*

Nikolaos Aletras and Mark Stevenson

12:00–12:30 *Distributional semantics for ontology verification*

Julien Corman, Laure Vieu and Nathalie Aussenac-Gilles

12:30–14:00 *Lunch break*

Thursday, June 4 (continued)

14:00–15:30 Block 3 - Lexical semantics

Session Chair: Gemma Boleda

14:00–14:30 *Combining Seemingly Incompatible Corpora for Implicit Semantic Role Labeling*
Parvin Sadat Feizabadi and Sebastian Padó

14:30–15:00 *Identification of Caused Motion Construction*
Jena D. Hwang and Martha Palmer

15:00–15:30 *A Methodology for Word Sense Disambiguation at 90% based on large-scale Crowdsourcing*
Oier Lopez de Lacalle and Eneko Agirre

15:30–16:00 Coffee break

16:00–17:00 Block 4 - Extra-propositional semantics

Session Chair: Tony Veale

16:00–16:30 *Learning Structures of Negations from Flat Annotations*
Vinodkumar Prabhakaran and Branimir Boguraev

16:30–17:00 *A New Dataset and Evaluation for Belief/Factuality*
Vinodkumar Prabhakaran, Tomas By, Julia Hirschberg, Owen Rambow, Samira Shaikh, Tomek Strzalkowski, Jennifer Tracey, Michael Arrigo, Rupayan Basu, Micah Clark, Adam Dalton, Mona Diab, Louise Guthrie, Anna Prokofieva, Stephanie Strassel, Gregory Werner, Yorick Wilks and Janyce Wiebe

17:00–19:00 Poster session with lightning talks intro

Non-Orthogonal Explicit Semantic Analysis

Nitish Aggarwal, Kartik Asooja, Georgeta Bordea and Paul Buitelaar

Combining Mention Context and Hyperlinks from Wikipedia for Named Entity Disambiguation

Ander Barrena, Aitor Soroa and Eneko Agirre

Collective Document Classification with Implicit Inter-document Semantic Relationships

Clint Burford, Steven Bird and Timothy Baldwin

Thursday, June 4 (continued)

SGRank: Combining Statistical and Graphical Methods to Improve the State of the Art in Unsupervised Keyphrase Extraction

Soheil Danesh, Tamara Sumner and James H. Martin

Towards Semantic Language Classification: Inducing and Clustering Semantic Association Networks from Europarl

Steffen Eger, Niko Schenk and Alexander Mehler

Ideological Perspective Detection Using Semantic Features

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Thursday, June 4 (continued)

Learning to predict script events from domain-specific text

Rachel Rudinger, Vera Demberg, Ashutosh Modi, Benjamin Van Durme and Manfred Pinkal

Combining Open Source Annotators for Entity Linking through Weighted Voting

Pablo Ruiz and Thierry Poibeau

Automatic Generation of a Lexical Resource to support Semantic Role Labeling in Portuguese

Magali Sanches Duran and Sandra Aluísio

Can Selectional Preferences Help Automatic Semantic Role Labeling?

Shumin Wu and Martha Palmer

Friday, June 5

09:00–10:30 Block 1 - Semantics for applications

Session Chair: Paolo Rosso

09:00–10:00 *60 Years Ago People Dreamed of Talking with a Machine. Are We Any Closer?*

Keynote by Preslav Nakov

10:00–10:30 *Implicit Entity Recognition in Clinical Documents*

Sujan Perera, Pablo Mendes, Amit Sheth, Krishnaprasad Thirunarayan, Adarsh Alex, Christopher Heid and Greg Mott

10:30–11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00–12:00 Block 2 - Semantics for applications; Lexical resources and ontologies

Session Chair: Alessandro Moschitti

11:00–11:30 *A Distant Supervision Approach to Semantic Role Labeling*

Peter Exner, Marcus Klang and Pierre Nugues

11:30–12:00 *Discovering Hypernymy Relations using Text Layout*

Jean-Philippe Fauconnier and Mouna Kamel

12:00–13:30 *Lunch break*

Friday, June 5 (continued)

13:30–15:00 Block 3 - Formal semantics

Session Chair: TBD

13:30–14:00 *The complexity of finding the maximum spanning DAG and other restrictions for DAG parsing of natural language*

Natalie Schluter

14:00–14:30 *Incremental Semantic Construction Using Normal Form CCG Derivation*

Yoshihide Kato and Shigeki Matsubara

14:30–15:00 *Dependency-Based Semantic Role Labeling using Convolutional Neural Networks*

William Foland and James Martin

15:00–15:30 *Coffee break*

15:30–17:00 Block 4 - Discourse semantics

Session Chair: TBD

15:30–16:00 *A State-of-the-Art Mention-Pair Model for Coreference Resolution*

Olga Uryupina and Alessandro Moschitti

16:00–16:30 *Resolving Discourse-Deictic Pronouns: A Two-Stage Approach to Do It*

Sujay Kumar Jauhar, Raul Guerra, Edgar González Pellicer and Marta Recasens

16:30–17:00 *Graph-based Coherence Modeling For Assessing Readability*

Mohsen Mesgar and Michael Strube

17:00 Best Paper Award and closing

Invited Talks

*Playing ficles and running with the corbons:
What (multimodal) distributional semantic models learn during their childhood*
Marco Baroni, University of Trento

Joint work with: Angeliki Lazaridou, Marco Marelli (University of Trento),
Raquel Fernandez (University of Amsterdam), Grzegorz Chrupała (Tilburg University)

Distributional semantic methods have some a priori appeal as models of human meaning acquisition, because they induce word representations from contextual distributions naturally occurring in corpus data without need for supervision. However, learning the meaning of a (concrete) word also involves establishing a link between the word and its typical visual referents, which is beyond the scope of classic, text-based distributional semantics. Since recently several proposals have been put forward about how to induce multimodal word representations from linguistic and visual contexts, it is natural to ask if this line of work, besides its practical implications, can help us to develop more realistic, grounded models of human word learning within the distributional semantics framework.

In my talk, I will report about two studies in which we used multimodal distributional semantics (MDS) to simulate human word learning. In one study, we first measured the ability of subjects to link a nonce word to relevant linguistic and visual associates when prompted only by exposure to minimal corpus evidence about it. We then simulated the same task with an MDS model, finding its behavior remarkably similar to that of subjects. In the second study, we constructed a corpus in which child-directed speech is aligned with real-life pictures of the objects mentioned by care-givers. We then trained our MDS model on these data, and inspected the generalizations it learned about the words in the corpus and the objects they might denote.

The results highlight interesting issues not only for distributional semantics (can we build meaningful word representations from very limited contexts? are such representations reasonably human-like?), but also for the study of human language acquisition (are we "done" with learning a word once we associate it to a referent? do we incrementally refine our word representations? is an explicit cross-situational mechanism really necessary?).

60 Years Ago People Dreamed of Talking with a Machine. Are We Any Closer?
Preslav Nakov, Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI)

Joint work with Marti Hearst (UC Berkeley)

The 60-year-old dream of computational linguistics is to make computers capable of communicating with humans in natural language. This has proven hard, and thus research has focused on sub-problems. Even so, the field was stuck with manual rules until the early 90s, when computers became powerful enough to enable the rise of statistical approaches. Eventually, this shifted the main research attention to machine learning from text corpora, thus triggering a revolution in the field.

Today, the Web is the biggest available corpus, providing access to quadrillions of words; and, in corpus-based natural language processing, size does matter. Unfortunately, while there has been substantial research on the Web as a corpus, it has typically been restricted to using page hit counts as an estimate for n -gram word frequencies; this has led some researchers to conclude that the Web should be only used as a baseline.

In this talk, I will reveal some of the hidden potential of the Web that lies beyond the n -gram, with focus on the syntax and semantics of English noun compounds. I will further show how these ideas apply to a number of NLP problems, including syntactic parsing and machine translation, among others. Finally, I will share some thoughts about the future of lexical semantics and machine translation, in view of the ongoing deep learning revolution.

