

EMNLP 2020

**The First Workshop on Computational Approaches to  
Discourse**

**Proceedings of the Workshop**

November 20, 2020  
Online

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ISBN 978-1-952148-78-1

## Introduction

Welcome to the first Workshop on Computational Approaches to Discourse, CODI! While there have been previous workshops on specific topics in discourse processing, CODI is intended to provide a venue for researchers working on all aspects of discourse. Our aim is to provide a venue for the entire discourse processing community where we can present and exchange our theories, algorithms, software, datasets, and tools.

The workshop consists of invited talks, contributed paper presentation, and discussion sessions. It also features several "Findings Papers" from EMNLP which are presented and discussed like regular workshop papers. We received paper submissions that span a wide range of topics, addressing issues related to discourse representation and parsing, argumentation, reference and coreference resolution, and more. As the workshop is virtual this year, papers are presented as prerecorded videos and discussed during live Q&A sessions. The workshop also includes a discussion on future shared tasks, special sessions on discourse representation and parsing, coreference resolution, and discourse and machine translation.

We thank our invited speakers **Eunsol Choi**, University of Texas at Austin, who works on language understanding and question answering in context, and **Eduard Hovy**, Carnegie Mellon University, who works on text analytics in its broadest sense. We would also like to thank our reviewers for their thoughtful and instructive comments. They helped us to prepare an inclusive workshop program.

The CODI Organizers,

Chloé Braud, Christian Hardmeier, Junyi Jessy Li, Annie Louis, and Michael Strube



**Organizers:**

Chloé Braud, CNRS - IRIT  
Christian Hardmeier, University of Edinburgh and Uppsala University  
Junyi Jessy Li, The University of Texas at Austin  
Annie Louis, Google  
Michael Strube, Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies

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Deyi Xiong, Tianjin University, China  
Nianwen Xue, Brandeis University, USA  
Amir Zeldes, Georgetown University, USA  
Heike Zinsmeister, Hamburg University, Germany

**Invited Speakers:**

Eunsol Choi, The University of Texas at Austin, USA  
Eduard Hovy, Carnegie Mellon University, USA



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## Workshop Program

*How does discourse affect Spanish-Chinese Translation? A case study based on a Spanish-Chinese parallel corpus*

Shuyuan Cao

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Grigorii Guz and Giuseppe Carenini

#### **Non-Archival Extended Abstracts**

*Unsupervised Inference of Data-Driven Discourse Structures using a Tree Auto-Encoder*

Patrick Huber and Giuseppe Carenini

*Large Discourse Treebanks from Scalable Distant Supervision*

Patrick Huber and Giuseppe Carenini

*Discourse for Argument Mining, and Argument Mining as Discourse*

Diane Litman

*Exploring aspects of similarity between spoken personal narratives by disentangling them into narrative clause types*

Belen Saldias and Deb Roy