

NLP + CSS 2016

**EMNLP 2016**  
**Workshop on Natural Language Processing**  
**and Computational Social Science**

**Proceedings of the Workshop**

November 5, 2016  
Austin, Texas, USA

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## Introduction

Language is a profoundly social phenomenon, both shaped by the social context in which it is embedded (such as demographic influences on lexical choice) and in turn helping construct that context itself (such as media framing). Although this interdependence is at the core of models in both natural language processing (NLP) and (computational) social sciences (CSS), these two fields still exist largely in parallel, holding back research insight and potential applications in both fields.

This workshop aims to advance the joint computational analysis of social sciences and language by explicitly connecting social scientists, network scientists, NLP researchers, and industry partners. Our focus is squarely on integrating CSS with current trends and techniques in NLP and to continue the progress of CSS through socially-informed NLP for the social sciences. This workshop offers a first step towards identifying ways to improve CSS practice with insight from NLP, and to improve NLP with insight from the social sciences.

Areas of interest include all levels of linguistic analysis, network science, and the social sciences, including (but not limited to): political science, geography, public health, economics, psychology, sociology, sociolinguistics, phonology, syntax, pragmatics, and stylistics.

The program this year includes 41 papers presented as posters. We received 47 submissions, and due to a rigorous review process, we rejected 6. There are also 5 invited speakers, Jason Baldridge (co-founder People Pattern / Linguistics, University of Texas Austin), Cristian Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil (Information Science, Cornell University), James Pennebaker (Psychology, University of Texas, Austin), Molly Roberts (Political Science, University of California, San Diego), and Hanna Wallach (Microsoft Research / University of Massachusetts Amherst).

The Doctoral Consortium event is part of a workshop at EMNLP, one of the top conferences in natural language processing. Doctoral consortium aims to bring together students and faculty mentors across NLP and the social sciences, to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and cross-pollination. The consortium event is part of a workshop at EMNLP, one of the top conferences in natural language processing. Student participants will have the opportunity to present their dissertation work, and will be paired with a senior researcher as a mentor. Applications are welcome from doctoral students in both the social sciences and in computer science. Members of groups that are underrepresented in computer science are especially encouraged to apply.

We would like to thank the Program Committee members who reviewed the papers this year. We would also like to thank the workshop participants. Last, a word of thanks also goes to the National Science Foundation for providing travel grant funding for travel grants for doctoral students at US universities.

David Bamman, A. Seza Doğruöz, Jacob Eisenstein, Dirk Hovy,  
David Jurgens, Brendan O'Connor, Alice Oh, Oren Tsur, Svitlana Volkova  
Co-Organizers



**Organizers:**

David Bamman, University of California Berkeley  
A. Seza Dođruöz, Independent Researcher and Strategy Advisor  
Jacob Eisenstein, Georgia Tech  
Dirk Hovy, University of Copenhagen  
David Jurgens, Stanford University  
Brendan O'Connor, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Alice Oh, KAIST  
Oren Tsur, Harvard University and Northeastern University  
Svitlana Volkova, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

**Program Committee:**

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Vinod Prabhakaran (Computer Science, Stanford)  
Daniel Preotiuc (Computer Science, University of Pennsylvania)  
Daniele Quercia (University of Cambridge)  
Tina Eliassi-Rad (Computer Science, Rutgers University)  
Alan Ritter (Computer Science, The Ohio State University)  
Molly Roberts (Political Science, University of California San Diego)  
Carolyn Penstein Rose (Carnegie Mellon University)  
Derek Ruths (Computer Science, McGill University)  
Andy Schwartz (Computer Science, Stony Brook)  
Dan Simonson (Linguistics, Georgetown University)  
Anders Søgaard (Center for Language Technology, University of Copenhagen)  
Brandon Stewart (Sociology, Princeton University)  
Oren Tsur (IQSS, Harvard; Network Science, Northeastern)  
Rob Voigt (Linguistics, Stanford University)  
Svitlana Volkova (Computer Science, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory)  
Hanna Wallach (Computer Science, Microsoft Research)  
Wei Xu (Computer Science, University of Pennsylvania)

**Invited Speaker:**

Jason Baldridge, co-founder People Pattern / Linguistics, University of Texas, Austin  
Cristian Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil, Information Science, Cornell University  
James Pennebaker, Psychology, University of Texas, Austin  
Molly Roberts, Political Science, University of California, San Diego  
Hanna Wallach, Microsoft Research / University of Massachusetts Amherst

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# Workshop Program

**Saturday, November 5, 2016**

**9:00–10:30**    **Session 1**

09:00–09:15    *Welcome*  
Workshop organizers

09:15–10:00    *Invited talk*  
James Pennebaker

**10:00–10:30**    *Doctoral consortium presentations*

**10:30–11:00**    *coffee break*

**11:00–12:30**    **Session 2**

11:00–11:45    *Invited talk*  
Hanna Wallach

11:45–12:30    *Invited talk*  
Cristian Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil

**12:30–14:00**    *Lunch break*

**Saturday, November 5, 2016 (continued)**

**14:00–15:30 Session 3**

14:00–14:45 *Invited talk*  
Jason Baldrige

**14:45–15:30 *1-minute poster madness***

*Relating semantic similarity and semantic association to how humans label other people*

Kenneth Joseph and Kathleen M. Carley

*Identifying News from Tweets*

Jesse Freitas and Heng Ji

*Obfuscating Gender in Social Media Writing*

Sravana Reddy and Kevin Knight

*Social Proof: The Impact of Author Traits on Influence Detection*

Sara Rosenthal and Kathy McKeown

*Generating Politically-Relevant Event Data*

John Beieler

*User profiling with geo-located posts and demographic data*

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Zeerak Waseem

*Disentangling Topic Models: A Cross-cultural Analysis of Personal Values through Words*

Steven Wilson, Rada Mihalcea, Ryan Boyd and James Pennebaker

**15:30–16:00** *coffee break*

**Saturday, November 5, 2016 (continued)**

**16:00–17:30** Session 4

**16:00–16:45** *posters*

16:45–17:30 *Invited talk*  
Molly Roberts