

ArabicNLP 2025

The Third Arabic Natural Language Processing Conference

Volume 1. Proceedings of the ArabicNLP 2025 Conference

November 8-9, 2025

The ArabicNLP organizers gratefully acknowledge the support from the following sponsors.

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Introduction

Welcome to The Third Arabic Natural Language Processing Conference (ArabicNLP 2025), co-located with EMNLP 2025 in Suzhou, China. ArabicNLP 2025 is the tenth edition of the WANLP/ArabicNLP meeting series, which has developed a growing reputation as a high quality venue for researchers and engineers working on Arabic NLP, where they share and discuss their ongoing work. The first in the WANLP series was held in Doha, Qatar (EMNLP 2014), followed by Beijing, China (ACL 2015), Valencia, Spain (EACL 2017), Florence, Italy (ACL 2019), online with COLING 2020, online with EACL 2021, a hybrid event in Abu Dhabi, UAE (EMNLP 2022), and then finally in-person events in Singapore with EMNLP 2023 and Bangkok, Thailand with ACL 2024.

For this year’s edition of ArabicNLP, we received a total of 95 correct main conference submissions and accepted 39 papers, which brings us to an acceptance rate of 41.0%, the lowest to date in the WANLP/ArabicNLP series. All papers submitted to the conference were reviewed by at least three reviewers each.

ArabicNLP 2025 included eleven shared tasks with 138 papers (11 overview papers and 127 system descriptions) in three main tracks:

Track 1: Speech and Multimodal Processing

1. ImageEval Arabic Image Captioning – 8 papers
2. Iqra’Eval: A Shared Task on Qur’anic Pronunciation Assessment – 5 papers
3. NADI 2025: Multidialectal Arabic Speech Processing – 7 papers
4. MAHED 2025: Multimodal Detection of Hope and Hate Emotions in Arabic Content – 23 papers

Track 2: Text Quality and Generation Assessment

1. AraGenEval: Arabic Authorship Style Transfer and AI Generated Text Detection – 16 papers
2. TAQEEM 2025: The First Task for Arabic Quality Evaluation of Essays in Multi-dimensions – 4 papers
3. BAREC 2025: Arabic Readability Assessment Shared Task – 17 papers
4. AraHealthQA 2025: Comprehensive Arabic Health Question Answering Shared Task – 15 papers

Track 3: Cultural and Ethical Evaluation of LLMs for Arabic

1. IslamicEval: Capturing LLMs Hallucination in Islamic Content – 7 papers
2. PalmX 2025: The First Shared Task on Benchmarking LLMs on Arabic Culture – 9 papers
3. QIAS 2025: Q&A in Islamic Studies Assessment Shared Task – 16 papers

ArabicNLP 2025 also includes two invited talks by Houda Bouamor, entitled “Beyond Resources: Building an Arabic NLP Ecosystem Rooted in Representation, Collaboration, and Responsibility” and Areeb Alowisheq, entitled “From Benchmarks to the Real-World Impact: Arabic LLMs in Production”. We were able to secure sponsorship funding from different institutions, Humain, Google, CAMEL Lab (NYU-AD), and Clinical AI Lab (NYU-AD). We used the sponsorship funds to support student registrations. We thank all our sponsors for their generous support and their help in building up the Arabic NLP community. Finally, we extend our gratitude to everyone who submitted a paper to the conference, and to the Program Committee members for their diligent efforts in providing reviews within a very tight time frame.

Kareem Darwish, General Chair, on behalf of the conference organizers.

Website of the conference: <https://arabnlp2025.sigarab.org>

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Invited Speaker

Houda Bouamor
 Areeb Alowisheq

Keynote Talk

Beyond Resources: Building an Arabic NLP Ecosystem Rooted in Representation, Collaboration, and Responsibility

Dr. Houda Bouamor
Carnegie Mellon University, Qatar

Abstract: Over the past decade, Arabic Natural Language Processing (Arabic NLP) has transformed from a niche research area constrained by data scarcity into a vibrant, rapidly expanding field. Yet this growth has also revealed structural gaps, fragmented datasets, uneven dialect representation, and limited collaboration across institutions. As the community moves beyond the “resource-building” phase, the challenge is no longer just producing more data or larger models, but designing a sustainable ecosystem that reflects the linguistic and cultural realities of the Arab world. This keynote calls for reimagining Arabic NLP as an ecosystem rooted in representation, collaboration, and responsibility. Drawing on insights from large-scale projects such as MADAR, the Qatari Linguistic Map, and the LAILA Arabic Essay Scoring dataset, the talk will show how inclusive design, ethical data practices, and shared infrastructure can reshape how Arabic language technologies are developed and governed. It will highlight issues of bias, dialect homogenization, and access inequality, particularly in the era of generative AI, while outlining a vision for an Arabic NLP Commons, a framework for open data governance, equitable participation, and long-term community stewardship. Ultimately, the talk argues that success should be measured not only by technical achievements, but by how authentically it represents its speakers and empowers its researchers.

Bio: Dr. Houda Bouamor is an Associate Teaching Professor and Associate Area Head of Information Systems at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, and an affiliated researcher with the CAMEL Lab at NYU Abu Dhabi. Her research focuses on artificial intelligence, natural language processing, and computational linguistics, with emphasis on Arabic and its dialects, multilingual resources, and AI for social good. Dr. Bouamor has played a leading role in advancing the Arabic NLP ecosystem, contributing to the development of large-scale corpora, benchmarks, and models for machine translation, spoken language understanding, and dialectal variation. Her work bridges linguistic diversity and technology, promoting inclusive and representative language tools for the Arabic-speaking world. An active leader in the NLP community, she has served as Program Chair of EMNLP 2023, General Chair of ArabicNLP 2024, and Senior Area Chair for ACL 2025, EACL 2026, LREC 2026, and AACL 2026. She is currently Secretary of SIGARAB, the ACL Special Interest Group on Arabic NLP. Dr. Bouamor is deeply committed to equity and mentorship, working to expand research infrastructure for underrepresented languages and foster stronger collaboration across regions. She holds a PhD in Computational Linguistics from Paris-Sud University, France.

Keynote Talk

From Benchmarks to the Real-World Impact: Arabic LLMs in Production

Dr. Areeb Alowisheq
Humain, KSA

Abstract: The development of ALLAM and its deployment in HUMAIN Chat exemplifies the strategic advancement of Arabic Large Language Models (LLMs). ALLAM, a 34B-parameter model, was engineered to address linguistic and cultural nuances, leveraging bilingual capabilities and regional datasets. HUMAIN Chat, powered by ALLAM, integrates real-time web search, dialect-sensitive voice input, and contextual memory, enhancing accessibility and cultural intelligence. This talk will take you through the journey of building ALLAM, highlighting insights relevant to the community into the challenges of evaluation for production readiness, ensuring robust deployments, and implementing feedback systems.

Bio: Dr. Areeb Alowisheq focuses on developing and managing research projects to build competing Arabic Language technologies. As Vice President of AI Research at HUMAIN and Head of HUMAIN Chat, she leads efforts to develop human-aligned generative and agentic technologies. Formally Assistant CEO for Research and Development at the National Center for AI at SDAIA, she leads the training of ALLAM and previously SauTech programs, Saudi Arabia's flagship LLM and speech initiatives. Previously an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Imam University, Areeb's work bridges research, productization, and governance to advance a sustainable Arabic AI ecosystem.

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Program

Friday, November 8, 2024

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- 09:30 - 08:45 *Beyond Resources: Building an Arabic NLP Ecosystem Rooted in Representation, Collaboration, and Responsibility, by Dr. Houda Bouamor*
- 09:30 - 10:30 *LLM Benchmarking & Development (1)*
- AraHalluEval: A Fine-grained Hallucination Evaluation Framework for Arabic LLMs*
Aisha Alansari and Hamzah Luqman
- 3LM: Bridging Arabic, STEM, and Code through Benchmarking*
Basma El Amel Boussaha, Leen Al Qadi, Mugariya Farooq, Shaikha Alsuwaidi, Giulia Campesan, Ahmed Alzubaidi, Mohammed Alyafeai and Hakim Hacid
- Nile-Chat: Egyptian Language Models for Arabic and Latin Scripts*
Guokan Shang, Hadi Abdine, Ahmad Chamma, Amr Mohamed, Mohamed Anwar, Abdelaziz Bounhar, Omar El Herraoui, Preslav Nakov, Michalis Vazirgiannis and Eric P. Xing
- 10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee Break*
- 11:00 - 11:30 *LLM Benchmarking & Development (2)*
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- Adapting Falcon3-7B Language Model for Arabic: Methods, Challenges, and Outcomes*
Basma El Amel Boussaha, Mohammed Alyafeai, Ahmed Alzubaidi, Leen Al Qadi, Shaikha Alsuwaidi and Hakim Hacid
- Capturing Intra-Dialectal Variation in Qatari Arabic: A Corpus of Cultural and Gender Dimensions*
Houda Bouamor, Sara Al-Emadi, Zeinab Ibrahim, Hany Fazzaa and Aisha Al-Sultan
- Lemmatizing Dialectal Arabic with Sequence-to-Sequence Models*
Mostafa Saeed and Nizar Habash
- Semitic Root Encoding: Tokenization Based on the Templatic Morphology of Semitic Languages in NMT*
Brendan T. Hatch and Stephen D. Richardson

Friday, November 8, 2024 (continued)

Learning Word Embeddings from Glosses: A Multi-Loss Framework for Arabic Reverse Dictionary Tasks

Engy Ibrahim, Farhah Adel, Marwan Torki and Nagwa El-Makky

12:30 - 14:00 *Lunch Break*

14:00 - 14:30 *Multimodality*

AMCrawl: An Arabic Web-Scale Dataset of Interleaved Image-Text Documents and Image-Text Pairs

Shahad Aboukazzana, Muhammad Kamran J Khan and Ahmed Ali

TuniFra: A Tunisian Arabic Speech Corpus with Orthographic Transcriptions and French Translations

Alex Choux, Marko Avila, Josep Crego, Fethi Bougares and Antoine Laurent

14:30 - 15:30 *Shared Tasks (1)*

16:00 - 15:30 *Coffee Break*

16:00 - 17:00 *Shared Tasks (2)*

17:00 - 18:00 *Poster presentations + Shared Task posters*

Saturday, November 9, 2024

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09:30 - 10:30	<i>Round Table (1)</i>
10:30 - 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00 - 12:30	<i>Education and Speech</i>
	<i>ArabJobs: A Multinational Corpus of Arabic Job Ads</i> Mo El-Haj
	<i>Feature Engineering is not Dead: A Step Towards State of the Art for Arabic Automated Essay Scoring</i> Marwan Sayed, Sohaila Eltanbouly, May Bashendy and Tamer Elsayed
	<i>Evaluating Prompt Relevance in Arabic Automatic Essay Scoring: Insights from Synthetic and Real-World Data</i> Chatrine Qwaider, Kirill Chirkunov, Bashar Alhafni, Nizar Habash and Ted Briscoe
	<i>TEDxTN: A Three-way Speech Translation Corpus for Code-Switched Tunisian Arabic - English</i> Fethi Bougares, Salima Mdhaffar, Haroun Elleuch and Yannick Estève
	<i>Octopus: Towards Building the Arabic Speech LLM Suite</i> Sara Althubaiti, Vasista Sai Lodagala, Tjad Clark, Yousseif Ahmed Elshahawy, Daniel Izham, Abdullah Alrajeh, Aljawahrah Bin Tamran and Ahmed Ali
	<i>ArabEmoNet: A Lightweight Hybrid 2D CNN-BiLSTM Model with Attention for Robust Arabic Speech Emotion Recognition</i> Ali Abouzeid, Bilal Elbouardi, Mohamed Maged and Shady Shehata
12:30 - 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:00 - 14:30	<i>Legal & Agents</i>

Saturday, November 9, 2024 (continued)

ALARB: An Arabic Legal Argument Reasoning Benchmark

Harethah Abu Shairah, Somayah S. Alharbi, Abdulaziz A. AlHussein, Sameer Alsabea, Omar Shaqaqi, Hebah A. Alshamlan, Omar Knio and George Turkiyyah

A – SEA³L-QA: A Fully Automated Self-Evolving, Adversarial Workflow for Arabic Long-Context Question-Answer Generation

Kesen Wang, Daulet Toibazar and Pedro J Moreno Mengibar

14:30 - 15:30 *Arab Culture & Retrieval*

Assessing Large Language Models on Islamic Legal Reasoning: Evidence from Inheritance Law Evaluation

Abdessalam Boucekif, Samer Rashwani, Heba Sbahi, Shahd Gaben, Mutaz Al Khatib and Mohammed Ghaly

Toward Culturally-Aware Arabic Debate Platforms with NLP Support

Khalid Al Khatib and Mohammad Khader

Can LLMs Directly Retrieve Passages for Answering Questions from Qur'an?

Sohaila Eltanbouly, Salam Albatarni, Shaimaa Hassanein and Tamer Elsayed

Shawarma Chats: A Benchmark Exact Dialogue & Evaluation Platter in Egyptian, Maghrebi & Modern Standard Arabic—A Triple-Dialect Feast for Hungry Language Models

Kamyar Zeinalipour, Mohamed Zaky Saad, Oumaima Attafi, Marco Maggini and Marco Gori

16:00 - 15:30 *Coffee Break*

16:00 - 17:00 *Discussion Roundtable (2)*