# NAACL HLT 2018

Storytelling

**Proceedings of the First Workshop** 

June 5, 2018 New Orleans, Louisiana



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### Introduction

Welcome to the first \*ACL workshop on Storytelling!

Human storytelling has existed for as far back as we can trace, predating writing. Humans have used stories for entertainment, education, cultural preservation; to convey experiences, history, lessons, morals; and to share the human experience.

Part of grounding artificial intelligence work in human experience can involve the generation, understanding, and sharing of stories. This workshop highlights the diverse work being done in storytelling and AI across different fields.

Papers at this workshop are multi-disciplinary, including work on neural, pipeline, and linguistic approaches to understanding and creating stories.

We are also pleased to host a Visual Storytelling challenge, highlighting different methods for automatically generating stories given a set of images; and an invited talk from Nasrin Mostafazadeh on communicating about events through storytelling.

Enjoy the workshop!

### **Organizers:**

Margaret Mitchell, Google Research Ting-Hao 'Kenneth' Huang, Carnegie Mellon University Francis Ferraro, University of Maryland, Baltimore County Ishan Misra, Carnegie Mellon University

### **Program Committee:**

Elizabeth Clark David Elson Marjan Ghazvininejad Andrew Gordon Gunhee Kim Boyang Li Stephanie Lukin Joao Magalhaes Lara Martin Saif Mohammad Nasrin Mostafazadeh Mark Riedl Luowei Zhou

## **Invited Speaker:** Nasrin Mostafazadeh, Benevolent AI

## Event-centric Context Modeling: The Case of Story Comprehension and Story Generation

Building AI systems that can process natural language input, comprehend it, and generate an engaging and contextually relevant output in response, has been one of the longest-running goals in AI. In human-human communications, a major trigger to our meaningful communications are "events" and how they cause/enable future events. We often communicate through telling stories in the form of related series of events.

In this talk, I present my work on language processing in terms of events and how they interact with each other in time. Mainly through the lens of storytelling, I will focus on story comprehension and collaborative story generation, with a major emphasis on commonsense reasoning and narrative knowledge as showcased in the Story Cloze Test framework. Through different use cases, I will highlight the importance of establishing a contentful context and modeling multimodal contexts (such as visual and textual) in various AI tasks.

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### **Conference Program**

### Tuesday, June 5, 2018

10:00-10:10	<b>Opening Remarks</b>

- 10:15–11:00 Invited Talk by Nasrin Mostafazedeh
- 11:00–11:25 *Learning to Listen: Critically Considering the Role of AI in Human Storytelling and Character Creation* Anna Kasunic and Geoff Kaufman
- 11:25–11:50 *Linguistic Features of Helpfulness in Automated Support for Creative Writing* Melissa Roemmele and Andrew Gordon

#### 11:50-13:45 Lunch

- 13:45–14:10 *A Pipeline for Creative Visual Storytelling* Stephanie Lukin, Reginald Hobbs and Clare Voss
- 14:10–14:35 *Telling Stories with Soundtracks: An Empirical Analysis of Music in Film* Jon Gillick and David Bamman
- 14:35–15:00 *Towards Controllable Story Generation* Nanyun Peng, Marjan Ghazvininejad, Jonathan May and Kevin Knight

#### 15:00-15:20 Break

- 15:20–16:00 Storytelling Challenge
- 16:00–16:25 An Encoder-decoder Approach to Predicting Causal Relations in Stories Melissa Roemmele and Andrew Gordon
- 16:25–16:50 *Neural Event Extraction from Movies Description* Alex Tozzo, Dejan Jovanovic and Mohamed Amer

Tuesday, June 5, 2018 (continued)

16:50–17:00 Closing Remarks