

WASSA 2022

**The 12th Workshop on Computational Approaches to
Subjectivity, Sentiment & Social Media Analysis**

Proceedings of the Workshop

May 26, 2022

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

Gold



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Introduction

The automatic analysis of Sentiment, Subjectivity, and Emotion (SSE) is once again the focus of WASSA. However, the breadth of each of these areas has expanded, both in the complexity of the tasks, as well as the number of applications where these techniques are applied.

On the one hand, more and more submissions approach more complex tasks in a large number of languages which were previously absent. On the other hand, many of the techniques developed in SSE have been applied to new tasks, such as hate speech, fake news detection, or narrative analysis.

This year we reran and expanded the Shared Task on Empathy and Personality Detection and Emotion Classification. The shared task aimed at developing models which can predict empathy and emotion based on essays written in reaction to news articles where there is harm to a person, group, or other.

For the main workshop, we accepted 14 papers as long, another 4 as short, and accepted 4 papers committed through the ACL Rolling Review system (2 long and 2 short), giving a total of 23/37 papers accepted (62%). For the Empathy and Personality Detection and Emotion Classification Shared Task, we received 10 system description paper submissions, out of which we accepted 10. 33 papers in total will be presented at the workshop.

In addition to the regular papers, we are glad that Professor Dirk Hovy from Bocconi University and Professor Rada Mihalcea from the University of Michigan accepted our invitation to give the keynote at the WASSA workshop.

The program is both well-connected to previous topics of the workshop and advances the current state-of-the-art in the field. It includes such diverse topics as multilingual sentiment and emotion analysis, stance detection or irony detection. Others include new tasks building upon this previous knowledge, e.g., politeness generation, personality profiling, ingroup vs. onlooker detection, or narrative analysis. This year we additionally give a best paper award to the paper “Distinguishing In-Groups and Onlookers by Language Use” by Joshua R. Minot, Milo Z. Trujillo, Samuel F. Rosenblatt, Guillermo de Anda Jáuregui, Emily Moog, Briane Paul V. Samson, Laurent Hébert-Dufresne, and Allison M. Roth.

We would like to thank the ACL Organizers and Workshop chairs for their help and support during the preparation. We thank Google for their gold sponsorship. We also thank the OpenReview support team for their technical support. Finally, we especially thank the program committee for the time and effort they spent on reviewing.

Jeremy Barnes, Orphée De Clercq, Valentin Barriere, Shabnam Tafreshi, Sawsan Alqahtani, João Sedoc, Roman Klinger, Alexandra Balahur

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Somnath Banerjee, Università Milano Bicocca, Italy
Maaz Amjad, Instituto Politécnico Nacional, Mexico

Invited Speakers

Dirk Hovy, Bocconi University, Italy
Rada Mihalcea, University of Michigan, U.S.A.

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Program

Thursday, May 26, 2022

09:00 - 09:10 *Opening Remarks*

09:10 - 10:30 *Session 1*

Assessment of Massively Multilingual Sentiment Classifiers

Krzysztof Rajda, Lukasz Augustyniak, Piotr Gramacki, Marcin Gruza, Szymon Woźniak and Tomasz Jan Kajdanowicz

English-Malay Word Embeddings Alignment for Cross-lingual Emotion Classification with Hierarchical Attention Network

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Uncertainty Regularized Multi-Task Learning

Kourosh Meshgi, Maryam Sadat Mirzaei and Satoshi Sekine

Improving Social Meaning Detection with Pragmatic Masking and Surrogate Fine-Tuning

Chiyu Zhang and Muhammad Abdul-Mageed

10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee Break*

11:00 - 12:00 *Shared Task*

WASSA 2022 Shared Task: Predicting Empathy, Emotion and Personality in Reaction to News Stories

Valentin Barriere, Shabnam Tafreshi, João Sedoc and Sawsan Alqahtani

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Bin Li, Yixuan Weng, Qiya Song, Bin Sun and Shutao Li

12:00 - 13:00 *Invited Talk 1 - Dirk Hovy*

13:00 - 14:00 *Lunch Break*

14:00 - 15:00 *Invited Talk 2 - Rada Mihalcea*

Thursday, May 26, 2022 (continued)

15:00 - 15:30 *Break*

15:30 - 16:15 *In-Person Poster Session*

On the Complementarity of Images and Text for the Expression of Emotions in Social Media

Anna Khlyzova, Carina Silberer and Roman Klinger

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16:15 - 17:15 *Session 2*

Distinguishing In-Groups and Onlookers by Language Use

Joshua R Minot, Milo Z Trujillo, Samuel F Rosenblatt, Guillermo De Anda-Jáuregui, Emily Moog, Allison M. Roth, Briane Paul Samson and Laurent Hébert-Dufresne

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Seyed Mahed Mousavi, Gabriel Roccabruna, Aniruddha Tammewar, Steve Azzolin and Giuseppe Riccardi

17:15 - 18:00 *Virtual Poster Session*

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