

LT-EDI 2024

**The Fourth Workshop on Language Technology for Equality,  
Diversity, Inclusion**

**Proceedings of the Workshop**

March 21, 2024

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## **Introduction**

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) is an important agenda across every field throughout the world. Language as a major part of communication should be inclusive and treat everyone with equality. Today's large internet community uses language technology (LT) and has a direct impact on people across the globe. EDI is crucial to ensure everyone is valued and included, so it is necessary to build LT that serves this purpose. Recent results have shown that big data and deep learning are entrenching existing biases and that some algorithms are even naturally biased due to problems such as 'regression to the mode'. Our focus is on creating LT that will be more inclusive of gender, racial, sexual orientation, persons with disability. The workshop will focus on creating speech and language technology to address EDI not only in English, but also in less resourced languages.

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# Keynote Talk: Metrics, Tasks, and Truths: Who is Natural Language Processing for?

Dirk Hovy

Department of Bocconi University

2024-03-21 09:15:00 – Room: Radisson, Marie Louise Suite 1

**Abstract:** NLP always implicitly deals with the notion of truth, not just in fact verification and natural language inference. But the notion of truth we use is often restrictive and sometimes artificial, and many times, it is completely unwarranted: because the process we use introduces falsehoods, because there is no single truth that holds for all users, because the notion of truth does not apply. These issues have become more pressing with Large Language Models. While we can now translate, summarize, and generate text at human and super-human levels, we are modeling very specific linguistic realities. In this talk, I will look at some of the (sizable) remaining pockets of unresolved questions and issues, even in high-resource languages like English. We look at some of the roots of NLP’s notion of truths, the way falsehoods enter our systems, and what we can do about it, with a special emphasis on annotation. I will suggest some aspects that can make for interesting future directions and enjoyable puzzling to make NLP fairer and (even) more performative. It turns out that there is still plenty to do with language of and for children and non-standard speakers, the safety and harmlessness of models, and the application to non-standard tasks.

**Bio:** He is an associate professor working on natural language processing and computational social science. Previously, He was faculty and postdoc in Copenhagen, got a PhD from USC, and a master’s in sociolinguistics in Germany. He is also the scientific director of BIDS’s Data and Marketing Insights (DMI) research unit, and head of the MilaNLP lab. He has organized a conference (EMNLP 2017) and various workshops (on abusive language, ethics in NLP, and computational social science).



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# Program

**Thursday, March 21, 2024**

09:00 - 09:15     *Opening Remarks*

09:15 - 09:45     *Keynote*

09:45 - 11:00     *Paper Session 1*

*Sociocultural knowledge is needed for selection of shots in hate speech detection tasks*

Antonis Maronikolakis, Abdullatif Köksal and Hinrich Schuetze

*The Balancing Act: Unmasking and Alleviating ASR Biases in Portuguese*  
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*Towards Content Accessibility Through Lexical Simplification for Maltese as a Low-Resource Language*

Martina Meli, Marc Tanti and Chris Porter

11:00 - 11:30     *Coffee Break*

11:30 - 12:30     *Poster Session 1*

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**Thursday, March 21, 2024 (continued)**

12:30 - 13:30 *Lunch Break*

13:30 - 15:45 *Paper Session 2*

*Prompting Fairness: Learning Prompts for Debiasing Large Language Models*

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15:45 - 16:15 *Coffee Break*

**Thursday, March 21, 2024 (continued)**

16:15 - 17:15 *Poster Session 2*

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17:15 - 17:45 *Plenary and Closing Remarks*