

NLP4PI 2025

Fourth Workshop on NLP for Positive Impact

Proceedings of the Workshop

July 31, 2025

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ISBN 978-1-959429-19-7

Introduction

The increasing integration of Natural Language Processing (NLP) technologies and systems into daily life opens up various opportunities to drive positive social impact. While much of the existing research has focused on detecting and mitigating harm—such as hate speech detection and mitigating misinformation, there is a growing need to explore how NLP can address broader societal challenges. Our workshop aims to fill this gap by encouraging more creative application of NLP in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, with applications ranging from healthcare and education to tackling climate changes, poverty, and inequality. To achieve this potential, we invite interdisciplinary experts across diverse domains to explore how NLP can be effectively applied for social good. We welcome works in areas including (but not limited to): Work that grounds the Impact of NLP, Applications for NLP for Social Good, Interdisciplinary Work for Social Impact. This year’s special theme is NLP for Climate Change.

This volume contains the proceedings of the Fourth Workshop on NLP for Positive Impact held in conjunction with the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2025). This year, our workshop received a record-breaking 67 submissions. Of these, 39 were accepted — 26 as archival papers and 13 as non-archival — resulting in an acceptance rate of 58%. We thank all Program Committee members for providing high quality reviews in assembling these proceedings. These papers cover diverse aspects of NLP for positive impact, including developing NLP technology to help applications like physical and mental health, climate change, crisis response, social mobility, education, employment, and culture preservation, as well as discussing challenges and ethical implications of using NLP in these areas.

In addition to technical papers, the workshop welcomes keynote speakers and panelists from both academia and industry, fostering rich discussions and deepening our understanding of NLP for positive impact. We also host lightning talks from NGOs actively leveraging AI to address real-world challenges.

We are grateful to all the people who have contributed to this workshop, including speakers, authors, reviewers, and attendees, and we would additionally like to thank the ACL workshop chairs and program chairs for making the workshop happen.

We hope that our workshop can encourage future work on NLP for positive social impact and we look forward to welcoming you all to our hybrid workshop!

- Katherine Atwell, Laura Biester, Angana Borah, Daryna Dementieva, Oana Ignat, Neema Kotonya, Ziyi Liu, Ruyuan Wan, Steven Wilson, Jieyu Zhao

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