WASSA 2023

The 13th Workshop on Computational Approaches to Subjectivity, Sentiment, & Social Media Analysis

Proceedings of the Workshop

July 14, 2023

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Introduction

While the first editions of the Workshop on Computational Approaches to Subjectivity Analysis (WASSA) focused mainly on sentiment and subjectivity analysis, the scope of this workshop has become both wider and deeper over the years, expanding the number of languages and tasks that are considered, while simultaneously looking at more specific subjective tasks.

The topics of this edition of WASSA range from exploring how harmful language proliferates in social media and news, to looking at the effects of using large pretrained language models on well-known sentiment/emotion analysis tasks, or creating resources for new tasks that focus on subjective language. Regarding languages, in this edition English is unsurprisingly the most represented (in 29 papers), with 2 papers each including Mandarin Chinese, Dutch, German, Hindi, and Spanish. This is followed by a long tail of languages that appear in only one paper (Algerian Arabic, Basque, Czech, Dari, French, Gujarati, Italian, Japanese, Kannada, Korean, Malayalam, Maltese, Modern Standard Arabic, Norwegian, and Tamil). Two papers also address multilingual emotion detection.

This year, WASSA offered two shared tasks: Shared-Task 1: Empathy Detection and Emotion Classification, which builds upon the previous shared task with a new track on empathy, emotion and self-disclosure detection in conversation at the speech-turn level, using a new, unpublished dataset. Shared-Task 2: Emotion Classification on code-mixed text messages (Roman Urdu + English), on the other hand, is a novel shared task focusing on multi-class and multi-label emotion classification on code-mixed (Roman Urdu + English) text messages. Two papers also submitted work on multilingual emotion analysis.

For the main workshop, we received 71 papers, one of the largest number of submissions for WASSA in its history. While we accepted a comparable large number, namely 43 (60.6%), we would like to point out that the competition has been quite tough – most submitted papers were of very high quality. For Shared Task 1 we received 12 system description paper submissions, while for Shared Task 2 we received 7 papers. In total, 61 papers will be presented at the workshop.

We also decided to award the best paper. Starting with the reviewer scores, the organizers of the workshop anonymously proposed candidates and then voted on them. The winner of the Best Paper Awards of this year's WASSA is *Multilingual Language Models are not Multicultural: A Case Study in Emotion by Shreya Havaldar, Sunny Rai, Bhumika Singhal, Langchen Liu Sharath Chandra Guntuku, and Lyle Ungar*.

On top of the main workshop and shared task presentations, we are happy to have two invited speakers who will hold keynotes at WASSA 2023: Professor Emily Öhman from Wakeda University and Professor David Jurgens from the University of Michigan.

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, especially to those who were willing to perform emergency reviews. The quality of the program is a reflection of this hard work.

Jeremy Barnes, Orphée De Clercq, Roman Klinger

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Invited Speakers

David Jurgens, University of Michigan
Emily Öhman, Wakeda University

Keynote Talk: Invited 1

David Jurgens
University of Michigan
2023-07-14 12:30:00 – Room: **Harbour C**

Abstract: NLP studies of communication often focus on the individual: What we say, when we say it, and how we say it. Yet, the larger social context beyond the individual also plays an important role in our communication — just think of things you can say to your friends but not your parents. How does the social context influence our communication style and content? In this talk, I will describe recent work from my group studying the influence of this context by examining how we choose who to communicate with, how we interpret messages, and how we phrase messages. Across these studies, I will motivate a causal approach for NLP when studying communication behavior to move beyond descriptive analyses to more precise estimates of the effects of social context.

Bio: David Jurgens is an assistant professor at the University of Michigan School of Information where he leads the Blablablab. He holds a PhD in Computer Science from the University of California, Los Angeles. His research focuses on the intersection between NLP and computational social science venues and has won the Cozzarelli Prize, Cialdini Prize, best paper at ICWSM and W-NUT, and best paper nomination at ACL and Web Science.

Keynote Talk: Invited 2

Emily Öhman
Waseda University
2023-07-14 16:00:00 – Room: **Harbour C**

Abstract: Affective Datafication of Narratives: measuring affect, emotion, and mood in literary texts
Our understanding of affect, emotion, and mood - despite the distinct nuances each term holds - often becomes blurred, leading to a usage that is almost interchangeable, particularly within sentiment analysis and NLP. In contrast, traditional fields such as literary studies hold on to more rigid definitions of these terms and how they are understood both in theory and practice. This can easily foster a disconnect between emerging fields such as computational literary studies and the more established qualitative counterparts. This disconnect unfortunately hinders the free exchange of innovative research ideas and methodologies. This talk aims to bridge this gap, highlighting the unique roles of affect, emotion, and mood in narratives and how we can attempt to robustly measure them. We will delve into the interplay of these terms, exploring how they shape and are shaped by authors, readers, and researchers focusing on the operationalization and translation involved in the analysis of emotion-laden phenomena. This exploration will underscore the need for a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding, encouraging synergy between tradition and innovation in emotion detection in general and literary research in particular.

Bio: Emily Öhman is currently a tenure-track Assistant professor of Digital Humanities at Waseda University. She received her PhD in Language Technology from the University of Helsinki, where her work centered on building multilingual emotion detection resources for downstream tasks.

Her research interests lie within digital humanities and NLP, more specifically sentiment analysis and emotion detection, often doing collaborations with various disciplines such as history, literature, and political science. Her recent projects have focused on negative emotions in literature using affect as a proxy for the literary concept of mood and most recently contrasting the semantic spaces of shame and guilt in Japanese and English social media posts.

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Multilingual Language Models are not Multicultural: A Case Study in Emotion
Shreya Havaldar, Bhumika Singhal, Sunny Rai, Langchen Liu, Sharath Chandra Guntuku and Lyle Ungar

10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee Break*

12:30 - 11:00 *Hybrid Poster Session*

12:30 - 13:30 *Invited Talk 1: David Jurgens*

13:30 - 14:30 *Lunch Break*

14:30 - 15:30 *Shared task session*

Findings of WASSA 2023 Shared Task on Empathy, Emotion and Personality Detection in Conversation and Reactions to News Articles
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YNU-HPCC at WASSA 2023: Using Text-Mixed Data Augmentation for Emotion Classification on Code-Mixed Text Message
Xuqiao Ran, You Zhang, Jin Wang, Dan Xu and Xuejie Zhang

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16:00 - 17:00 *Invited Talk 2: Emily Öhman*

17:00 - 18:00 *Session 2: Harmful Speech and Dissatisfaction Recognition*

Identifying Slurs and Lexical Hate Speech via Light-Weight Dimension Projection in Embedding Space
Sanne Hoeken, Sina Zarrieß and Ozge Alacam

Modelling Political Aggression on Social Media Platforms
Akash Rawat, Nazia Nafis, Dnyaneshwar Bhadane, Diptesh Kanojia and Rudra Murthy

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Painsight: An Extendable Opinion Mining Framework for Detecting Pain Points Based on Online Customer Reviews
Yukyung Lee, Jaehee Kim, Doyoon Kim, Yookyung Kho, Younsun Kim and Pilsung Kang

18:00 - 18:15 *Closing Remarks and Best Paper Awards*