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Raquel Fernández and Amy Isard (eds.)

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Preface

DialDam brings the SEMDIAL Workshop on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue back to Amsterdam, where the second meeting — Amstelogue — took place in 1999. The return to Amsterdam has brought about the opportunity to collocate SEMDIAL with the Amsterdam Colloquium, a premier forum for formal work on semantics and pragmatics. We are excited about this opportunity and we hope that it will encourage interaction between the two communities, which seem to have drifted somewhat apart over the last few years. To stimulate contact, the last session of DialDam will be offered as a special session on dialogue within the Amsterdam Colloquium.

While in the initial years of the SEMDIAL series the focus was on what could be called classic semantics and pragmatics, over the last decade and a half the scope of SEMDIAL has broadened significantly. It now covers a wide range of topics concerned with aspects of dialogue, ranging from the acquisition of conversational competence by children, experimental semantics and psycholinguistic studies, to work on the design of artificial conversational agents, human interaction with robots, and the computational modelling of disfluencies, gesture, gaze, and turn taking. The collection of papers presented in this volume offer a good overview of the diversity of angles from which the study of dialogue can be tackled.

We received a total of 40 full paper submissions, 17 of which were accepted after a peer-reviewing process during which each submission was reviewed by three experts. We are extremely grateful to the Programme Committee members for their very detailed and helpful reviews. Three papers amongst the accepted submissions were selected for presentation in the special session with the Amsterdam Colloquium, in collaboration with Maria Aloni (representing the Amsterdam Colloquium) and on the basis of affinity with the scope of the colloquium. In response to a later call, we received a total of 30 abstract submissions describing ongoing projects or system demonstrations, of which 26 were accepted for poster presentation. Abstract submissions were not refereed, but evaluated for relevance to the SEMDIAL topics of interest only by ourselves in our role as chairs. All accepted full papers and poster abstracts are included in this volume.

In addition, the DialDam programme features three keynote presentations by Danielle Matthews, Marc Swerts, and Matthew Stone (who will give a plenary talk for the audiences of both SEMDIAL and the Amsterdam Colloquium). We are honoured to have them at the workshop and are looking forward to their talks. Abstracts of their contributions are also included in this volume.

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Raquel Fernández and Amy Isard

Amsterdam & Edinburgh

December 2013

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