

# **SEMDIAL 2017**

## **SaarDial**

### **Proceedings of the 21st Workshop on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue**

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## Preface

Welcome to the 21st Workshop on the Semantics and Pragmatics! Like all previous years, this year's SemDial has its unique name: "SaarDial". This is the second time Saarbrücken hosts SemDial (first time in 2003). It is the first time that SemDial co-locates and shares sessions and keynote speakers with SIGDial (<http://www.sigdial.org/workshops/conference18/>). The two events bring academic and industry researchers interested in dialogue, and bridge the gap between research in the theoretical and experimental semantics and pragmatics of dialogue on the one hand, and research in computational dialogue and discourse modelling on the other.

The SaarDial and SIGDial programmes jointly feature three keynote speakers: Oliver Lemon, Elizabeth Andre and Andy Kehler. We are honoured to have them in SemDial and we thank them for their participating. Abstracts of their contributions can be found towards the beginning of this volume.

This year, SemDial hosts a joint SIGdial/SemDial special session on 'Negotiation Dialogs', organized by Amanda Stent (Bloomberg LP), Aasish Pappu (Yahoo Inc), Diane Litman (University of Pittsburgh) and Marilyn Walker (University of California Santa Cruz). The papers from this special session that appear in the proceedings were submitted and reviewed as regular SemDial papers. Papers not accepted through the regular review process are not included in the proceedings, but were invited to be presented as 5 minutes talks in the special session.

We received 26 full paper submissions. 13 of those will be presented as talks in SemDial, 2 will be presented in the SIGDial/SemDial joint special session, and 4 will be presented as posters. In addition we received 12 abstracts, 8 of which will be presented as posters and 3 as posters and demos. All accepted full papers and poster abstracts are included in this volume. For the first time, SemDial proceedings will also be archived in ISCA, regular papers will receive a DOI index. The mix of papers reflect a diverse range of research topics, including semantic/pragmatic comprehension, negotiation, multimodal dialogues, computational modeling, learning in dialogue, and child-adult interactions. We are extremely grateful to all the members of the Programme Committee for their timely and detailed reviews.

SaarDial together with SIGdial have received financial support from the cluster of Excellence 'Multimodal Computing and Interaction' (Saarland University), Microsoft, Maluba a Microsoft Company, Interactions, Amazon, Adobe, Facebook, Parc a Xerox Company, DFKI, Educational Testing Service (ETS), Honda Research Institute (HRI), SemVox and Charamel GmbH.

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Volha Petukhova and Ye Tian

Saarbrücken & Paris

August 2017

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# Table of Contents

## Invited Talks

Challenges for Data-driven Dialogue Systems: finding the goldilocks zone for conversational data . . . . .	2
<i>Oliver Lemon</i>	
Empowering Human-Robot Dialogue by Affective Computing Research . . . . .	4
<i>Elisabeth André</i>	
Conversational Eliciture in a Bayesian Model of Language Interpretation . . . . .	5
<i>Andrew Kehler</i>	

## Full Papers

Referring Expressions and Communicative Success in Task-oriented Dialogues . . . . .	8
<i>Laura Aina, Natalia Philippova, Valentin Vogelmann, and Raquel Fernández</i>	
(Perceptual) grounding as interaction . . . . .	17
<i>Simon Dobnik and Amelie Åstbom</i>	
Unimodal and Bimodal Backchannels in Conversational English . . . . .	27
<i>Gaelle Ferre and Suzanne Renaudier</i>	
Meta-conversational since when-questions and the common ground . . . . .	38
<i>Angelika Kiss</i>	
Multimodal Coreference Resolution for Exploratory Data Visualization Dialogue: Context-Based Annotation and Gesture Identification . . . . .	48
<i>Abhinav Kumar, Jillian Aurisano, Barbara Di Eugenio, Andrew Johnson, Abeer Alsaiani, Nigel Flowers, Alberto Gonzalez and Jason Leigh</i>	
Dialogue Acts and Updates for Semantic Coordination . . . . .	59
<i>Staffan Larsson and Jenny Myrendal</i>	
Resuscitation procedures as multi-party dialogue . . . . .	67
<i>Ernisa Marzuki, Hannah Rohde, Chris Cummins, Gareth Clegg and Holly Branigan</i>	
Special Session - Summarizing Dialogic Arguments from Social Media . . . . .	77
<i>Amita Misra, Shereen Oraby, Shubhangi Tandon, Sharath Ts, Pranav Anand and Marilyn Walker</i>	
Special Session - Online learning and transfer for user adaptation in dialogue systems . . . . .	88
<i>Carrara Nicolas, Romain Laroche and Olivier Pietquin</i>	
Negotiation of discourse moves: right periphery tags . . . . .	97
<i>Adriana Osa</i>	
Dialogue Act Semantic Representation and Classification Using Recurrent Neural Networks . . . .	104
<i>Pinelopi Papalampidi, Elias Iosif and Alexandros Potamianos</i>	
Computing Negotiation Update Semantics in Multi-issue Bargaining Dialogues . . . . .	114
<i>Volha Petukhova, Harry Bunt and Andrei Malchanau</i>	

<b>Challenging Neural Dialogue Models with Natural Data: Memory Networks Fail on Incremental Phenomena</b> . . . . .	125
<i>Igor Shalyminov, Arash Eshghi and Oliver Lemon</i>	
<b>Finding the Zone of Proximal Development: Student-Tutor Second Language Dialogue Interactions</b>	134
<i>Arabella Sinclair, Jon Oberlander and Dragan Gasevic</i>	
<b>Designing interactive, automated dialogues for L2 pragmatics learning</b> . . . . .	143
<i>Veronika Timpe-Laughlin, Keelan Evanini, Ashley Green, Ian Blood, Judit Dombi and Vikram Ramanarayanan</i>	
<b>Poster Abstracts</b>	
<b>Argumentative dialogue system based on argumentation structures</b> . . . . .	154
<i>Ryuichiro Higashinaka, Kazuki Sakai, Hiroaki Sugiyama, Hiromi Narimatsu, Tsunehiro Arimoto, Takaaki Fukutomi, Kiyooki Matsui, Yusuke Ijima, Hiroaki Ito, Shoko Araki, Yuichiro Yoshikawa, Hiroshi Ishiguro and Yoshihiro Matsuo</i>	
<b>Concern-Alignment for Negotiation and Joint Inquiry in Dialogues</b> . . . . .	156
<i>Yasuhiro Katagiri, Katsuya Takanashi, Masato Ishizaki, Mika Enomoto and Yasuharu Den</i>	
<b>Towards Learning Transferable Conversational Skills using Multi-dimensional Dialogue Modelling</b>	158
<i>Simon Keizer and Verena Rieser</i>	
<b>Towards a Dialogue System with Long-term, Episodic Memory</b> . . . . .	160
<i>Daniel Kondratyuk and Casey Kennington</i>	
<b>Incremental Processing for Neural Conversation Models</b> . . . . .	162
<i>Pierre Lison and Casey Kennington</i>	
<b>An Intelligent Digital Assistant for Clinical Operating Rooms</b> . . . . .	164
<i>Juliana Miehle, Nadine Gerstenlauer, Daniel Ostler, Hubertus Feussner, Wolfgang Minker and Stefan Ultes</i>	
<b>Syntactic Priming by Japanese EFL Learners in Dialogue Contexts based on Different Task Types</b> . . . . .	166
<i>Miwa Morishita and Yasunari Harada</i>	
<b>Towards End-to-End Modeling of Spoken Language Understanding in a Cloud-based Spoken Dialog System</b> . . . . .	168
<i>Yao Qian, Rutuja Ubale, Vikram Ramanarayanan, David Suendermann-Oeft, Keelan Evanini, Patrick Lange and Eugene Tsuprun</i>	
<b>A Phonetic Adaptation Module for Spoken Dialogue Systems</b> . . . . .	170
<i>Eran Raveh and Ingmar Steiner</i>	
<b>An Open Source Standards-Compliant Voice Browser with Support for Multiple Language Understanding Implementations</b> . . . . .	172
<i>Dirk Schnelle-Walka, Vikram Ramanarayanan, Stefan Radomski, Patrick Lange and David Suendermann-Oeft</i>	
<b>Training Argumentation Skills with Argumentative Writing Support</b> . . . . .	174
<i>Christian Stab and Iryna Gurevych</i>	

Incremental Joint Modelling for Dialogue State Tracking . . . . .	176
<i>Anh Duong Trinh, Robert J. Ross and John D. Kelleher</i>	
Factor Analysis of Gazing Activities in Native and Second Language Conversations . . . . .	178
<i>Ichiro Umata, Koki Ijuin and Seiichi Yamamoto</i>	
Towards a Natural User Interface for Small Groups in Real Museum Environments . . . . .	180
<i>Marco Valentino, Maria Di Maro and Franco Cutugno</i>	
A Transferentive Connective Marker -etaka in Korean: perspectives of grammaticalization and pragmatics . . . . .	182
<i>Sunhee Yae</i>	