



Associazione Italiana di
Linguistica Computazionale



Preface

The eighth edition of the Italian Conference on Computational Linguistics (CLiC-it 2021) was held at Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca from 26th to 28th January 2022.

After the edition of 2020, which was held in fully virtual mode due to the health emergency related to Covid-19, CLiC-it 2021 represented the first moment for the Italian research community of Computational Linguistics to meet in person after more than one year of full/partial lockdown. Although the conference was held in dual mode, we strongly suggested the participants to attend it coming to Milan. Indeed, we received a strong feedback on this aspect from the community, which was eager to meet in person and enjoy both the scientific and social events together with the colleagues. In total, 99 participants registered to the conference benefiting from the early registration fee, 91 out of which expressed their intention to attend the event in person, which we consider as a very positive indication of enthusiasm from the community, given the uncertain situation due to the evolution of the pandemic in Italy.

In total, we received 68 proposals, organized in the following specific tracks: Information Extraction, Information Retrieval and Question Answering, Computational Linguistics and Natural Language Processing for the Humanities, Computational Social Science and Social Media Dialogue, Discourse and Natural Language Generation, Ethics and NLP, Language Resources and Evaluation, Spoken Language Processing and Automatic Speech Understanding, Cognitive Modeling and Psycholinguistics, Linguistic Issues in CL and NLP, Machine Learning for NLP, Machine Translation and Multilingualism, Morphology and Syntax Processing, Pragmatics and Creativity, Research and Industrial NLP Applications, Semantics, Knowledge Representation, Vision, Robotics, Multimodal and Grounding.

During the reviewing process, each submission was reviewed by three independent members of the scientific committees of the tracks in single-blind fashion. At the end of the process, 59 proposals were accepted for presentation at the conference and publication in the proceedings, resulting in an acceptance rate of 86.76%. Out of the 59 accepted proposals, 26 were included in the program of CLiC-it 2021 as oral presentations and the remaining 33 were assigned to one of the three poster sessions of the conference. As usual, the criterion for assigning a proposal to an oral or a poster session was based on the contents and not on the quality of the proposal. Regardless of the format of presentation, all accepted papers are allocated six pages of content (one additional page w.r.t. the previous editions) plus unlimited pages of references in the proceedings, available as open access publication. In line with last editions, the conference is receiving considerable attention from the international community, with 21 (31%) submissions this year showing at least one author affiliated to a foreign institution. This amounts to a total of 43 authors over 221 (20%) affiliated to 13 foreign countries: Belgium, Czechia, France, Germany, Romania, Hong Kong, Greece, Iran, The Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United States.

The program of CLiC-it 2021 is completed by 10 research communications selected after the reviewing process. Research communications are not published in the proceedings, but have been orally presented within dedicated sessions at the conference, in order to enforce dissemination of excellence in research.

In addition to the technical programme, this year we were honoured to have as invited speakers such internationally recognized researchers as Barbara Plank (IT University of Copenhagen), with a keynote entitled “Returning the L in NLP: Why Language (Variety) Matters and How to Embrace it in Our

Models” and Dan Roth (University of Pennsylvania & Amazon AWS AI) with the keynote “It’s Time for Reasoning”.

Two tutorials were organized. On 26th January, Julia Bosque Gil (University of Zaragoza, Spain) provided an introduction to Linguistic Linked Data, while on 28th January Daniel Zeman (Charles University of Prague, Czech Republic) introduced the project of Universal Dependencies.

Moreover, the program included a panel discussion about linguistic infrastructures with representatives of CLARIN (Monica Monachini, ILC-CNR), ELG (Bernardo Magnini, FBK), and DARIAH (Emiliano Degl’Innocenti, OVI-CNR).

This year we have received 8 candidate theses for the “Emanuele Pianta Award for the Best Master Thesis”. This special prize for the best Master Thesis (Laurea Magistrale) in Computational Linguistics, submitted at an Italian University, is endorsed by AILC. The candidate theses have been evaluated by a special jury, and awarded during the last session of the conference, by the members of the jury.

We thank all the people and institutions involved in the organization of the conference, all track chairs, reviewers, and all participants, who contributed to the success of the event. All track chairs and reviewers are named in the following pages. We are grateful to the following, who made CLiC-it 2021 possible and supported us greatly and generously in the processes of local organization, publication of the proceedings and publicity: Marco Cremaschi, Giulia Rizzi, Silvia Terragni (Local Organizing Committee); Alessandra Teresa Cignarella, Matteo Pellegrini, Danilo Croce (Publication Chairs); Rachele Sprugnoli (Publicity Chair).

We thank the sponsors of CLiC-it 2021, who generously provided funds and services that are crucial for the realization of this event, including: B13, Dipartimento di Informatica, Sistemistica e Comunicazione (DISCO), Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Elsevier, Red Software Systems, Yewno (Gold sponsors); AIO Proactive Systems, CELI, expert.ai (Silver sponsors); datrix, ELRA, oaxs (Bronze sponsors).

Finally, we want to thank very much the Associazione Italiana di Linguistica Computazionale (AILC), all the members of the Association Board and, in particular, the President Bernardo Magnini, who never let us alone in the sea of doubts and problems that organizing an hybrid event implies.

December 2021

Elisabetta Fersini, Marco Passarotti, Viviana Patti
CLiC-it 2021 General Chairs

Conference and Programme Chairs

Elisabetta Fersini, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Italy
Marco Passarotti, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano, Italy
Viviana Patti, Università degli Studi di Torino, Italy

Track Chairs

Information Extraction, Information Retrieval and Question Answering

Pierpaolo Basile, Università degli Studi di Bari
Elena Cabrio, Université Côte d'Azur

CL and NLP for the Humanities

Francesca Frontini, Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale "A.Zampolli"
Francesco Mambrini, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano

Computational Social Science and Social Media

Valerio Basile, Università degli Studi di Torino
Nicole Novielli, Università degli Studi di Bari

Dialogue, Discourse and Natural Language Generation

Alessandro Mazzei, Università degli Studi di Torino
Antonio Origlia, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II

Ethics and NLP

Andrea Bolioli, CELI Language Technology
Malvina Nissim, University of Groningen

Language Resources and Evaluation

Simonetta Montemagni, Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale "A.Zampolli"
Rachele Sprugnoli, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano

Spoken Language Processing and Automatic Speech Understanding

Franco Cutugno, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II
Daniele Falavigna, Fondazione Bruno Kessler

Cognitive Modeling and Psycholinguistics

Cristiano Chesi, Scuola Superiore Universitaria Pavia – IUSS
Tommaso Fornaciari, Università Bocconi

Linguistic Issues in CL and NLP

Maria Teresa Guasti, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca
Elisabetta Jezek, Università di Pavia

Machine Learning for NLP

Roberto Basili, Università di Roma, Tor Vergata
Felice Dell'Orletta, Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale "A.Zampolli"

Machine Translation and Multilingualism

Matteo Negri, Fondazione Bruno Kessler
Manuela Sanguinetti, Università degli Studi di Cagliari

Morphology and Syntax Processing

Cristina Bosco, Università degli Studi di Torino

Fabio Tamburini, Università di Bologna

Pragmatics and Creativity

Valentina Bambini, Scuola Superiore Universitaria Pavia – IUSS

Carlo Strapparava, Fondazione Bruno Kessler

Research and Industrial NLP Applications

Francesca Bonin, IBM Research Ireland

Marcello Federico, Amazon

Semantics, Knowledge Representation

Alessandro Lenci, Università di Pisa

Fahad Khan, Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale “A.Zampolli”

Vision, Robotics, Multimodal and Grounding

Raffaella Bernardi, Università di Trento

Danilo Croce, Università di Roma, Tor Vergata

Local Organizing Committee

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Giulia Rizzi, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

Silvia Terragni, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

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Alessandra Teresa Cignarella, Università degli Studi di Torino

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