Preface: SCiL 2020 Editors’ Note

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This volume contains research presented at the third annual meeting of the Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL), held in New Orleans, January 2-5, 2020, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America.

Research was submitted to be reviewed either in the form of a paper, or as an abstract. The oral presentations, or talks, at the conference included both papers and abstracts. The papers presented as talks are the first 17 papers listed in the proceedings, and the remaining 23 papers were presented as posters. Authors of accepted abstracts were given the option of publishing an extended version; these follow the papers, and are themselves followed in this volume by abstracts that are published in their original two-page length.

In total, we received 82 submissions to the conference, 30 abstracts and 52 papers. 21 submissions were selected for oral presentation (26%) and 35 for poster presentation (43%). We asked authors to provide gender information on a voluntary basis at submission time. Of the submissions for which we received gender information (72), 39 (54%) included a female author. 27 (48%) of the accepted submissions included a female author, and 10 (56%) of the submissions accepted as talks included a female author.

We thank our reviewers for their indispensable help in selecting the research for presentation at the conference:


Thanks also to Tom Maxfield and Joe Pater for logistical help.

SCiL 2020 also included a plenary session on “Computation and Meaning” with invited talks by Ellie Pavlick (Brown University) and Christopher Potts (Stanford University). As
part of SCiL 2020 there was also an NSF-funded workshop on “Formal Language Theory in Linguistics”, which included several special sessions: a keynote address by Jeffrey Heinz (Stony Brook University), a special abstract-reviewed ‘works in progress’ session of talks, tutorials by Alëna Aksënova (Stony Brook University) and Kyle Gorman (CUNY), and mentoring events aimed at young researchers in computational linguistics. Further information can be found at our website: https://blogs.umass.edu/scil/scil-2020/.