Introduction

The widespread and indispensable use of language-oriented AI systems presents new opportunities to have a positive social impact. Much existing work on NLP for social good focuses on detecting or preventing harm, such as classifying hate speech, mitigating bias, or identifying signs of depression. However, NLP research also offers the potential for positive proactive applications that can improve user and public well-being or foster constructive conversations. Nevertheless, “positive impact” remains difficult to define, and well-intentioned NLP technology can raise concerns about ethics and privacy.

This volume contains the proceedings of the First Workshop on NLP for Positive Impact held in conjunction with the Joint Conference of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 11th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (ACL-IJCNLP 2021). The workshop received 40 submissions of technical papers of which 27 were accepted (16 archival and 11 non-archival), for an acceptance rate of 65%. Non-archival papers are included in the schedule and presented during the workshop, but are not included in the proceedings, whereas archival papers are included. We thank Program Committee members for providing high quality reviews in assembling these proceedings. These papers cover diverse aspects of NLP for positive impact, including developing NLP technology for applications like healthcare, criminal law, education, social media analyses, and consumer privacy as well discussing challenges and ethical implications of using NLP in these areas.

In addition to technical papers, this workshop also features invited keynote speakers and panelists to facilitate discussion and enhance knowledge of NLP for positive impact.

Keynote speakers:
Ndapa Nakashole, University of California, San Diego
Yulia Tsvetkov, University of Washington
Jason Weston, Facebook AI Research

Panelists:
Yejin Choi, University of Washington/Allen Institute for AI
Pascale Fung, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Inioluwa Deborah Raji, Mozilla Foundation
Baobao Zhang, Cornell University

We are grateful to all the people who have contributed to this workshop, including speakers, authors, reviewers, and attendees, and we would additionally like to thank Microsoft for providing funds for registration fee waivers.

We hope that our workshop can encourage future work on pro-social NLP and we look forward to welcoming you all to our virtual event!

- Anjalie, Shrimai, Maarten, Zhijing, Jieyu, and Chris
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Zijian Wang, Stanford University
Zeerak Waseem, University of Sheffield
Kellie Webster, Google Research
Invited Speakers
Ndapa Nakashole, University of California, San Diego
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# Table of Contents

*Restatement and Question Generation for Counsellor Chatbot*
  John Lee, Baikun Liang and Haley Fong ................................................................. 1

*The Climate Change Debate and Natural Language Processing*
  Manfred Stede and Ronny Patz ................................................................................. 8

*Cartography of Natural Language Processing for Social Good (NLP4SG): Searching for Definitions, Statistics and White Spots*
  Paula Fortuna, Laura Pérez-Mayos, Ahmed AbuRa’ed, Juan Soler-Company and Leo Wanner . 19

*Guiding Principles for Participatory Design-inspired Natural Language Processing*
  Tommaso Caselli, Roberto Cibin, Costanza Conforti, Enrique Encinas and Maurizio Teli ...... 27

*Theano: A Greek-speaking conversational agent for COVID-19*
  Nikoletta Ventoura, Kosmas Palios, Yannis Vasilakis, Georgios Paraskevopoulos, Nassos Katsamanis and Vassilis Katsouros .................................................................................. 36

*Are we human, or are we users? The role of natural language processing in human-centric news recommenders that nudge users to diverse content*
  Myrthe Reuver, Nicolas Mattis, Marijn Sax, Suzan Verberne, Nava Tintarev, Natali Helberger, Judith Moeller, Sanne Vrijenhoek, Antske Fokkens and Wouter van Atteveldt ........................................... 47

*Automatic Sentence Simplification in Low Resource Settings for Urdu*
  Yusra Anees and Sadaf Abdul Rauf ........................................................................... 60

*Challenges for Information Extraction from Dialogue in Criminal Law*
  Jenny Hong, Catalin Voss and Christopher Manning ............................................... 71

*Detecting Hashtag Hijacking for Hashtag Activism*
  Pooneh Mousavi and Jessica Ouyang ...................................................................... 82

*NLP for Consumer Protection: Battling Illegal Clauses in German Terms and Conditions in Online Shopping*
  Daniel Braun and Florian Matthes ........................................................................... 93

*A Research Framework for Understanding Education-Occupation Alignment with NLP Techniques*
  Renzhe Yu, Subhro Das, Sairam Gurajada, Kush Varshney, Hari Raghavan and Carlos Lastra-Anadon ................................................................................................................. 100

*Dialogue Act Classification for Augmentative and Alternative Communication*
  E. Margaret Perkoff .................................................................................................. 107

*Improving Policing with Natural Language Processing*
  Anthony Dixon and Daniel Birks .............................................................................. 115

*Empathy and Hope: Resource Transfer to Model Inter-country Social Media Dynamics*
  Clay H. Yoo, Shriphani Palakodety, Rupak Sarkar and Ashiqur KhudaBukhsh ............. 125

*A Speech-enabled Fixed-phrase Translator for Healthcare Accessibility*
  Pierrette Bouillon, Johanna Gerlach, Jonathan Mutal, Nikos Tsourakis and Hervé Spechbach . 135
Conference Program

August 5, 2021 [UTC+0]

1:00PM–1:15PM Opening Remarks

1:15PM–2:15PM Invited talk: Jason Weston

2:15PM–2:30PM Break

2:30PM–4:00PM Poster Session 1

*Conversations Gone Alright: Quantifying and Predicting Prosocial Outcomes in Online Conversations*
Jiajun Bao, Junjie Wu, Yiming Zhang, Eshwar Chandrasekharan and David Jurgens

*Effects of Online Self-Disclosure on Receiving Social Support During the COVID-19 Pandemic*
Jooyoung Lee, Sarah Rajtmajer, Eesha Srivatsavaya and Shomir Wilson

*Restatement and Question Generation for Counsellor Chatbot*
John Lee, Baikun Liang and Haley Fong

*The Climate Change Debate and Natural Language Processing*
Manfred Stede and Ronny Patz

*Methods for Detoxification of Texts for the Russian Language*
Daryna Dementieva, Daniil Moskovskiy, Varvara Logacheva, David Dale, Olga Kozlova, Nikita Semenov and Alexander Panchenko

*Towards Knowledge-Grounded Counter Narrative Generation for Hate Speech*
Yi-Ling Chung, Serra Sinem Tekiroğlu and Marco Guerini

*Cartography of Natural Language Processing for Social Good (NLP4SG): Searching for Definitions, Statistics and White Spots*
Paula Fortuna, Laura Pérez-Mayos, Ahmed AbuRa’ed, Juan Soler-Company and Leo Wanner

*Conversational Receptiveness: Improving Engagement with Opposing Views*
Michael Yeomans, Julia Minson, Hanne Collins and Francesca Gino
Guiding Principles for Participatory Design-inspired Natural Language Processing
Tommaso Caselli, Roberto Cibin, Costanza Conforti, Enrique Encinas and Maurizio Teli

Using Word Embeddings to Analyze Teacher Evaluations: An Application to a Filipino Education Non-Profit Organization
Francesca Vera

Analyzing Stereotypes in Generative Text Inference Tasks
Anna Sotnikova, Yang Trista Cao, Hal Daumé III and Rachel Rudinger

Theano: A Greek-speaking conversational agent for COVID-19
Nikoletta Ventoura, Kosmas Palios, Yannis Vasilakis, Georgios Paraskevopoulos, Nassos Katsamanis and Vassilis Katsouros

Are we human, or are we users? The role of natural language processing in human-centric news recommenders that nudge users to diverse content
Myrthe Reuver, Nicolas Mattis, Marijn Sax, Suzan Verberne, Nava Tintarev, Natalie Helberger, Judith Moeller, Sanne Vrijenhoek, Antske Fokkens and Wouter van Atteveldt

Use of Formal Ethical Reviews in NLP Literature: Historical Trends and Current Practices
Sebastin Santy, Anku Rani and Monojit Choudhury

Automatic Sentence Simplification in Low Resource Settings for Urdu
Yusra Anees and Sadaf Abdul Rauf

4:00PM–5:00PM Invited Talk: Yulia Tsvetkov
August 5, 2021 [UTC+0] (continued)

5:00PM–5:30PM Break

5:30PM–6:30PM Invited talk: Ndapa Nakashole

6:30PM–9:30PM Break

9:30PM–11:00PM Poster Session 2

Challenges for Information Extraction from Dialogue in Criminal Law
Jenny Hong, Catalin Voss and Christopher Manning

Detecting Hashtag Hijacking for Hashtag Activism
Pooneh Mousavi and Jessica Ouyang

Breaking Down Walls of Text: How Can NLP Benefit Consumer Privacy?
Abhilasha Ravichander, Alan W Black, Thomas Norton, Shomir Wilson and Norman Sadeh

Conversation-Level Resilience to Bad Actors in Reddit Communities
Charlotte Lambert and Eshwar Chandrasekharan

NLP for Consumer Protection: Battling Illegal Clauses in German Terms and Conditions in Online Shopping
Daniel Braun and Florian Matthes

A Research Framework for Understanding Education-Occupation Alignment with NLP Techniques
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Empathy and Hope: Resource Transfer to Model Inter-country Social Media Dynamics
Clay H. Yoo, Shriphani Palakodety, Rupak Sarkar and Ashiqur KhudaBukhsh

How Good Is NLP? A Sober Look at NLP Tasks through the Lens of Social Impact
Zhijing Jin, Geeticka Chauhan, Brian Tse, Mrinmaya Sachan and Rada Mihalcea

A Speech-enabled Fixed-phrase Translator for Healthcare Accessibility
Pierrette Bouillon, Johanna Gerlach, Jonathan Mutal, Nikos Tsourakis and Hervé Spechbach

A Grounded Well-being Conversational Agent with Multiple Interaction Modes: Preliminary Results
Xinxin Yan and Ndapa Nakashole

11:00PM–12:30AM [+1] Panel Discussion: Yejin Choi, Pascale Fung, Inioluwa Deborah Raji, Baobao Zhang

12:30AM [+1]–12:45AM [+1] Closing Remarks