

NLP4PosImpact 2021

The 1st Workshop on NLP for Positive Impact

Proceedings of the Workshop

August 5, 2021
Bangkok, Thailand (online)

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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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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

August 5, 2021 [UTC+0] (continued)

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 Katsourous

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

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