AACL-IJCNLP 2022

The 2nd Conference of the Asia-Pacific Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 12th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing

Proceedings of the Student Research Workshop

November 20, 2022 Online

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ISBN 978-1-955917-56-8

Message from the General Chairs

Welcome to the AACL-IJCNLP 2022 Student Research Workshop (SRW)!

The AACL-IJCNLP 2022 SRW is held in conjunction with the 2nd Conference of the Asia-Pacific Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (AACL) and the 12th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing conference (IJCNLP).

The AACL-IJCNLP 2022 SRW provides a forum for student researchers who are investigating various areas related to Computational Linguistics and Natural Language Processing. The workshop provides an excellent opportunity for student participants to present their work and receive valuable feedback from the international research community as well as from selected panelists - experienced researchers, specifically assigned according to the topic of their work, who will prepare in-depth comments and questions in advance of the presentation. The workshop's goal is to aid students at multiple stages of their education: including undergraduate, master's, junior, and senior PhD students.

This year's submissions were organized into three different categories. Two of the three categories are general research papers and thesis proposals, following the tradition established by the previous SRWs:

- General research papers: Papers in this category can describe completed work, or work in progress with preliminary results. For these papers, the first author must be a current graduate or undergraduate student.
- Thesis proposals: This category is appropriate for advanced students who have decided on a thesis topic and wish to get feedback on their proposal and broader ideas for their continuing work.

In this year's workshop, we also introduced a special theme category, **Human-Centered NLP**:

• The rising prevalence of living along with artificial intelligence has brought lots of benefits to people's daily life. However, it also poses a challenge of building reliable, explainable, and empathic tools to provide better service, from essential natural language applications (e.g., machine translation, and text classification) to mental support. Especially during the current pandemic, people are more likely to feel alone and rely upon technology. This, together with the advances in the field of Natural Language Processing, has motivated the exploration of human-centered technology. In this special theme, we invite submissions that address diverse human-centered questions, particularly encouraging bringing together perspectives and methods from NLP and affective computing to improve individuals' lives physically and mentally. Topics of interest include (but are not limited to): (1) affective systems to understand human emotion and respond to their emotional feedback; (2) sentiment analysis in social media, e-commerce data, etc.; (3) human factors in the NLP evaluation system; (4) reliable and explainable NLP models; (5) ethics in NLP, including debiasing, detoxification, etc.

We received a total of 40 submissions: 38 general research papers, 1 thesis proposal, and 1 human-centered NLP paper. We accepted 14 general research papers, one thesis proposal, and one human-centered NLP paper, resulting in an overall acceptance rate of 40%. The decision-making process was competitive, but we were delighted that all accepted submissions have great creativity and make contributions to their fields. The accepted submissions are diverse not only in topics but also in terms of student demographics. In addition to the accepted ones, we wish each author of every submission the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Following previous SRWs, we also provided the pre-submission mentoring program for participants. The mentoring program offers students the opportunity to get feedback by a mentor prior to submitting their work for review. 12 papers participated in the pre-submission mentoring program. We would like to thank the 12 pre-submission mentors that spend their time and effort to help improve the work of the

student authors. We would also like to thank all members of the program committee for their in-depth, detailed review and constructive suggestions for each submission. We are especially grateful to all the emergency reviewers who provide timely support and submit their high-quality feedback. Carrying on the practice of the AACL-IJCNLP 2020 SRW, we also include an SRW Keynote and an SRW Best Paper Award in this workshop.

Preparing a workshop is never an easy business. Many thanks to our faculty advisors, Sebastian Ruder and Xiaojun Wan, who provided enormous help and inspiring suggestions through the preparation of this workshop. Special thanks to Boaz Shmueli and Yin Jou Huang, the co-chairs of the AACL-IJCNLP 2020 SRW, who shared their invaluable experience in preparing the workshop. We are also grateful to Yulan He for her constant and timely support. A huge shout out to Yanran Li, who agreed to give the SRW keynote. We sincerely appreciate all of the organizers of the AACL-IJCNLP conference for their effort. And of course, we would like to thank all the student authors and participants who submitted their work to the workshop. This workshop cannot be successful without any of them.

We hope you enjoy the AACL-IJCNLP 2022 SRW!

Organizing Committee

Student Research Workshop Co-Chairs

- Hanqi Yan, University of Warwick, UK
- Zonghan Yang, Tisnghua University, China

Faculty Advisors

- Sebastian Ruder
- Xiaojun Wan

Pre-submission Mentors

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- Zhong Zhou
- Qinhong Zhou
- Pierre Zweigenbaum

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