

# Preface to the CLiC-it 2024 Proceedings

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This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Italian Conference on Computational Linguistics. To celebrate this important achievement for the whole Italian community, CLiC-it 2024 is held in Pisa, like for its first edition in 2014, from 4th to 6th December 2024.

Concerning the scientific organization of the conference, two types of submissions were possible: regular papers, describing substantial, original, completed, and unpublished work, and short research communications of outstanding papers accepted in both 2023 and 2024 by major publication venues, such as the major international Computational Linguistics conferences (workshops excluded) or international journals. These latter contributions are not published in the conference proceedings but are aimed to promote the dissemination of high-quality research within the Italian community.

Like in the previous edition, the conference was not organized into separate tracks. Submissions were assigned to area chairs (thirteen program committee members) according to a set of topics chosen by the authors at submission time. This way we were able to achieve a better balance of papers for each area chair, while respecting their research interests. Paper assignment to reviewers was also managed globally, with a single pool of 140 reviewers, to better monitor the whole process.

We have received a record number of submissions for regular papers: 133 compared to 86 in 2023 (+47). This result demonstrates the vitality and growth of the Italian Computational Linguistics community. In addition we received 19 submissions for short research communications.

During the reviewing process, each regular paper submission was reviewed by three independent reviewers in single-blind fashion. At the end of the process, **114 proposals were accepted** for presentation at the con-

ference and for publication in the proceedings, resulting in an acceptance rate of 85.7% (with respect to the rate of 87.21% for CLiC-it 2023).

Out of the 114 accepted proposals, 32 were included in the program as oral presentations (divided into 6 oral sessions) and the remaining 82 were assigned to one of the three poster sessions dedicated to the regular papers. 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. An additional poster session was organized for the 19 research communications that are not published in the proceedings.

An important novelty of this edition is the organization of the special event CALAMITA (Challenge the Abilities of LAnguage Models in ITALian) which took place on the afternoon of December 6th. The aim of CALAMITA, that collected 20 tasks, is the collaborative creation of a dynamic benchmark to evaluate Large Language Models supporting the Italian language.

In addition to the technical program, this year the conference hosted an interview with Oliviero Stock (Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento) and Nicoletta Calzolari (CNR-ILC, Pisa) on the past, present, and future of computational linguistics in Italy, in relation to the wider international landscape. In addition, we were honored to have as **invited speakers** two internationally recognized researchers:

- **Giosuè Baggio** (Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim), with a keynote entitled “Meaning and grammar in a parallel architecture for language processing”: *This talk introduces a novel cognitive and computational architecture for human language processing. The architecture features parallel streams for meaning and grammar, drawing from a shared mental lexicon and contributing concurrently to incremental updates of a discourse model. Intermediate representations are generated independently within each stream, resulting in a range of possible interactions between meaning and grammar — from dominance and redundancy to competition and conflict. Linguistic phenomena illustrating these different interactions and present experimental results corroborating the architecture’s processing consequences are presented. Then a computational model that aligns*

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*with experimental results and that demonstrates the importance of intermediate representations is described. Some considerations on how the theory reconciles two key principles in linguistics — compositionality and context — and the traditions that build on them conclude the talk..*

- **Dieuwke Hupkes** (Meta AI Research, Paris, France), with a keynote entitled “Generalisation in LLMs – and beyond”: “*Good generalisation*” is often mentioned as a desirable property for NLP models. For LLMs, in the light of the sheer training corpora, among other things, it becomes more and more challenging to understand if our models generalise, and how important that still is. In this presentation, I briefly discuss generalisation in NLP on a higher level, and then move on to discussing it specifically for LLMs. What types of generalisation are still important, how would we evaluate it, and is it possible to evaluate it independently from the training corpus? I will – hopefully – answer some of your questions, but also raise a lot more!

In the first morning of the Conference, Bernardo Magnini and Giovanni Bonetta (FBK, Trento) gave a **tutorial** entitled “You Are what You Eat: Processing Data for Training and Evaluating LLMs”.

This year we received 9 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, commemorates the late lamented Emmanuele Pianta and is endorsed by AILC. The candidate theses have been evaluated by a jury composed by Gianluca Lebani (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice), Rachele Sprugnoli (University of Parma) and Sara Tonelli (Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento). The winner was awarded during the closing 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 area chairs, reviewers, and all participants, who contributed to the success of the event. Chairs and reviewers are named in the following pages. We are grateful to the CNR-Institute for Computational Linguistics “A. Zampolli” that made CLiC-it 2024 possible by hosting the event and supporting us greatly in the processes of local organization, and to the University of Pisa<sup>1</sup> that endorsed our event.

We would like to thank our **supporters**, who generously provided funds and services that are crucial for the realization of this event: Aptus.AI<sup>2</sup>, CLARIN-IT<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup><https://www.unipi.it/>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.aptus.ai/>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.clarin-it.it/>

and Talia<sup>4</sup> (Silver), aequa-tech<sup>5</sup>, Almawave<sup>6</sup> and ELRA<sup>7</sup> (Bronze), Translated<sup>8</sup> (Iron), and Meta<sup>9</sup> that supported the trip of Dieuwke Hupkes.

Finally, we want to thank very much the Associazione Italiana di Linguistica Computazionale (AILC), all the members of the Association Board who supported and guided us in organizing the conference.

Pisa, December 2024

## Conference Chairs

- **Felice Dell’Orletta**, CNR-Institute for Computational Linguistics “A. Zampolli”
- **Alessandro Lenci**, University of Pisa
- **Simonetta Montemagni**, CNR-Institute for Computational Linguistics “A. Zampolli”
- **Rachele Sprugnoli**, University of Parma

## CALAMITA Chairs

- **Pierpaolo Basile**, University of Bari Aldo Moro
- **Danilo Croce**, University of Rome, Tor Vergata
- **Malvina Nissim**, University of Groningen
- **Viviana Patti**, University of Turin

## CALAMITA Data and Evaluation Team

- **Giuseppe Attanasio**, Instituto de Telecomunicações, Lisbon
- **Federico Borazio**, University of Rome, Tor Vergata
- **Maria Francis**, University of Groningen & University of Trento
- **Jacopo Gili**, University of Turin
- **Elio Musacchio**, University of Bari Aldo Moro
- **Matteo Rinaldi**, University of Turin
- **Daniel Scalena**, University of Groningen & University of Milan Bicocca

## Local Organization Committee

- **Chiara Alzetta**, CNR-Institute for Computational Linguistics “A. Zampolli”
- **Serena Auriemma**, University of Pisa

<sup>4</sup><https://talia.cloud/>

<sup>5</sup><https://aequa-tech.com/>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.almawave.com/it/>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.elra.info/>

<sup>8</sup><https://translated.com/>

<sup>9</sup><https://www.meta.com/>

- **Alessandro Bondielli**, University of Pisa
- **Luca Dini**, CNR-Institute for Computational Linguistics "A. Zampolli"
- **Chiara Fazzone**, CNR-Institute for Computational Linguistics "A. Zampolli"
- **Martina Miliani**, University of Pisa

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- **Marta Sartor**, CNR-Institute for Computational Linguistics "A. Zampolli"

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- **Sofia Brenna**, Fondazione Bruno Kessler

## Booklet

- **Chiara Alzetta**, CNR-Institute for Computational Linguistics "A. Zampolli"

## Registration System Management

- **Sara Barcena**, freelance designer

## Area Chairs

- **Dominique Brunato**, CNR-Institute for Computational Linguistics "A. Zampolli"
- **Cristiano Chesi**, IUSS Pavia
- **Roberta Claudia Combei**, University of Pavia
- **Diego Frassinelli**, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
- **Gianluca Lebani**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice
- **Alessandro Mazzei**, University of Torino
- **Johanna Monti**, Orientale University of Naples
- **Malvina Nissim**, University of Groningen
- **Debora Nozza**, Bocconi University
- **Lucia Passaro**, University of Pisa
- **Marco Polignano**, University of Bari
- **Roberto Zamparelli**, University of Trento
- **Fabio Massimo Zanzotto**, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"

## Reviewers

Chiara Alzetta, Oscar Araque, Serena Auriemma, Pier Balestrucci, Matilde Barbini, Valerio Basile, Pierpaolo Basile, Elisa Bassignana, Mauro Bennici, Davide Bernardi, Monica Berti, Leonardo Bertolazzi, Siddharth Bhargava, Andrea Bolioli, Helena Bonaldi, Alessandro Bondielli, Federico Boschetti, Cristina Bosco, Luca Brigada Villa, Davide Buscaldi, Lucia Busso, Luca Capone, Franco Alberto Cardillo, Tommaso Caselli, Silvia Casola, Pierluigi Cassotti, Camilla Casula, Flavio Massimiliano Cecchini, Mauro Cettolo, Francesca Chiusaroli, Alessandra Teresa Cignarella, Lorenzo Cima, Fabio Ciotti, Davide Colla, Serena Coschignano, Danilo Croce, Francesco Cutugno, Lorenzo De Mattei, Marco DeGemmis, Angelo Mario Del Grosso, Pietro Dell'Oglio, Rodolfo Delmonte, Andrea Di Babio, Maria Pia di Buono, Maria Di Maro, Elisa Di Nuovo, Luca Dini, Luca Duccheschi, Andrea Esuli, Alfio Ferrara, Marcello Ferro, Elisabetta Fersini, Greta Franzini, Simona Frenda, Francesca Frontini, Dennis Fucci, Achille Fusco, Gloria Gagliardi, Sara Gemelli, Pierpaolo Goffredo, Francesca Grasso, Lorenzo Gregori, Michael Hanna, Delia Irazu Hernandez Farias, Claudiu Hromei, Elisabetta Jezek, Fahad Khan, Joachim Kokkelmans, Tiziano Labruna, Katarina Laken, Alberto Lavelli, Eleonora Litta, Soda Marem Lo, Agnese Lombardi, Bernardo Magnini, Simone Magnolini, Francesco Mambrini, Raffaele Manna, Marta Marchiori Manerba, Claudia Marzi, Enrico Mensa, Alessio Miaschi, Martina Miliani, Gosse Minnema, Monica Monachini, Johanna Monti, Benedetta Muscato, Vivi Nastase, Roberto Navigli, Renáta Németh, Sofia Neri, Nicole Novielli, Antonio Origlia, Teresa Paccosi, Alessio Palmero Aprosio, Endang Pamungkas, Ludovica Pannitto, Marco Passarotti, Viviana Patti, Matteo Pellegrini, Nicolò Penzo, Federico Pianzola, Maria Letizia Piccini Bianchessi, Andrea Piergentili, Vito Pirrelli, Roberto Pirrone, Flor Miriam Plaza-del-Arco, Massimo Poesio, Mattia Proietti, Valeria Quochi, Giulia Rambelli, Giuseppe Rizzo, Matteo Romanello, Marco Rovera, Chiara Rubagotti, Irene Russo, Daniel Russo, Manuela Sanguinetti, Gabriele Sarti, Beatrice Savoldi, Giovanni Semeraro, Lucia Siciliani, Claudia Soria, Manuela Speranza, Giulia Speranza, Marco Antonio Stranisci, Carlo Strapparava, Alice Suozzi, Fabio Tamburini, Benedetta Tessa, Sara Tonelli, Olga Uryupina, Rossella Varvara, Giulia Venturi, Guido Vetere, Alessandro Vietti, Serena Villata, Vincenzo Norman Vitale, Andrea Zaninello, Roberto Zanolli.