

GWC 2025

Proceedings of the 13th Global Wordnet Conference

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Foreword

The Global WordNet Conference 2025 (GWC2025) brought together scholars and practitioners to discuss the latest advancements in lexical semantics and the development of WordNet-like lexical resources. The event addressed diverse topics, including multilingual WordNet expansion, the integration of Large Language Models into semantic frameworks, and the applications of WordNets in historical linguistics and cultural studies.

The initiative to host GWC2025 at the University of Pavia was inspired by the PRIN project *Linked WordNets for Ancient Indo-European Languages* (PRIN_2022_2022YAPFNJ; PIs Chiara Zanchi and Riccardo Ginevra), based in the Department of Humanities. This project, in collaboration with the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, focuses on developing WordNets for Latin, Ancient Greek, and Sanskrit, thereby advancing the inclusion of ancient languages in computational linguistics, Natural Language Processing, and language resource creation. In alignment with these goals, the 2025 edition of the Global WordNet Conference featured a panel on ancient languages, examining WordNet architecture and applications for languages both within and beyond the project's scope, such as Old English and Coptic.

The conference featured three keynote speakers who shared their expertise in the development, implementation, and application of WordNets, as well as their reflections on the role of WordNets in society in the era of Linked Data and Large Language Models:

- In her talk ‘Towards a Cultural WordNet: From Words to Meanings to Cross-Cultural Nuances’, Rada Mihalcea (University of Michigan) discussed the creation of a Cultural WordNet and its applications.
- Marco Passarotti (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore) explored interoperability and linked data approaches for the Latin WordNet in a talk entitled ‘WordNet in the Net. Making it all Interact’.
- Piek Vossen (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) presented ‘30 Years Embracing and Abandoning Wordnets’, a talk on the evolution of WordNets over three decades since the original creation of the Princeton English WordNet.

The conference was preceded by a teach-in delivered by Angela Caiazza (NTT DATA Italia) on the transformative impact of Large Language Models on modern business strategies. This reflected an ongoing collaboration between the Department of Humanities at the University of Pavia and NTT DATA, established through a recently signed framework agreement, to promote outreach initiatives, internships, collaborative projects, workshops, and seminars.

As detailed in the program, the conference featured over thirty presentations, two-thirds of which were delivered by international scholars. Beyond attracting global researchers, GWC2025 fostered synergy among institutions that contribute to the cultural life of the city of Pavia: not only the University but also the Municipality of Pavia – particularly the Department of Public Education and Professional Training – as well as the Almo Collegio Borromeo and Collegio Ghislieri. The event's scientific significance was recognized globally by the Global WordNet Association and nationally by AILC, the Italian Association for Computational Linguistics. Two scholarships were made available to support student presenters in their participation in the conference. Moreover, participants were able to enjoy the city of Pavia through a rich social program, which offered numerous opportunities for informal exchange and community building.

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