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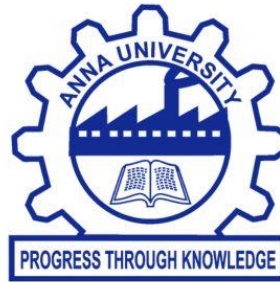
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Keynote Talk: Why AI Is WEIRD and Should Not Be This Way: Towards AI For Everyone, With Everyone, By Everyone

**Prof. Rada Mihalcea
University of Michigan**

Abstract

Recent years have witnessed remarkable advancements in AI, with language and vision models that have enabled progress in numerous applications and opened the door to the integration of AI in areas such as communication, transportation, healthcare, and arts. Yet, many of these models and their corresponding datasets are W.E.I.R.D. (Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, Democratic) and they are reflective of a small fraction of the population.(*). In this talk, I will show some of the limitations and lack of representation of current AI models, and highlight the need for cross-cultural language and vision models that can capture the diversity of behaviors, beliefs, and language expressions across different groups. I will also explore ways in which we can address these limitations by developing models that are re-centered around people and their unique characteristics.

(*) W.E.I.R.D. is an acronym widely used in psychology to indicate the limitation of many of the studies carried out in the field

Keynote Talk: Syntactic Blocking Effects in Hindi: a computational exploration

**Prof. Rajesh Bhatt,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst**

Abstract

Rajesh Bhatt received his PhD in 1999 from the University of Pennsylvania, where he worked with Professor Aravind Joshi. Prior to that, he received a BTech in Computer Science from IIT Kanpur in 1993 and was advised by Professor Rajeev Sangal. His research interests involve the syntax-semantics interface, the comparative syntax of Modern Indo-Aryan languages, and Tree Adjoining Grammars. Within the syntax-semantics interface, he has written on the interaction of aspect and modality, comparatives, and implicit arguments and within comparative syntax, he has worked on long distance agreement, closest conjunct agreement, and correlative constructions. He was part of the team that built the NSF funded Hindi/Urdu Treebanks. Prior to UMass, he taught at the University of Texas at Austin. He has also taught at the LSA Summer Institutes at MIT and at Boulder, the LOT Summer School, and LISSIM.

Keynote Talk: Machine Speech Chain: From Human Auditory Feedback Principles to Language Technology Empowering Indigenous Communities

Prof. Sakriani Sakti
Nara Institute of science & Technology, Japan

Abstract

"Automatic speech recognition (ASR) and text-to-speech synthesis (TTS) have enabled machines to mimic human speech perception and production. However, unlike humans, machines lack a closed-loop mechanism to monitor and adjust their output, as ASR and TTS are trained separately using large amounts of paired speech-text data. In contrast, humans learn by simultaneously listening and speaking, using auditory feedback to refine their speech. This talk introduces the machine speech chain framework, inspired by human auditory feedback, which enables semi-supervised learning by allowing ASR and TTS to teach each other with unpaired data. Applications to multilingual and multimodal settings for low-resource languages will be explored. Additionally, I will share insights from indigenous communities, highlighting challenges in ensuring language technologies effectively support under-resourced languages.

Keynote Talk: Culturally Aware Machines: Why and when are they useful?

Prof. Monojit Choudhury
University of Artificial Intelligence, Abu Dhabi

Abstract

Language, culture, and technology are deeply intertwined; any technology that aims to process or generate language must have a nuanced understanding of culture. Yet, culture is elusive, often defying concrete definition, which poses a profound challenge to NLP and AI research. While the NLP community has acknowledged this fact and taken initial steps — developing culture-specific benchmarks and identifying biases in large language models (LLMs)—there remains a gap in addressing why cultural understanding matters for machines, and the real-world impact on users of culturally (un)aware machines. In this talk, I will ask and attempt to answer the following three questions: (1) What can we do better with AI systems that are culturally aware? (2) Why is modeling culture so complex, and what can we learn from psychology and anthropology come to our rescue? (3) How can LLMs, in turn, be leveraged as tools for studying and enhancing our understanding of cultures?

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Program

Friday, December 20, 2024

8:30 AM - 09:45 AM	<i>Registration</i>
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	<i>Inaugural Ceremony</i>
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Keynote 1: <i>Culturally Aware Machines: Why and when are they useful?</i> Prof. Monojit Chaudari
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Industry Session: <i>Presentation by Digital India Bhashini Division</i>
12:00 PM - 01:00 PM	Oral Presentation Session (Parallel Sessions) <i>Session 1: QA, Information Extraction + Information Retrieval and Text Mining</i> <i>Session 2: Language Resource</i> <i>Session 3: Sentiment Analysis and Summarization</i>
02:00 PM - 03:00 PM	Oral Presentations (Parallel Sessions) <i>Session 4: Machine Translation</i> <i>Session 5: Machine Learning</i> <i>Session 6: Discourse</i>
03:30 PM - 04:00 PM	<i>Panel Session (Industry)</i>
04:00 PM - 05:00 PM	Keynote 2: <i>Syntactic Blocking Effects in Hindi: a computational exploration</i> Prof. Rajesh Bhutt

Saturday, December 21, 2024

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Keynote 3: Why AI Is WEIRD and Should Not Be This Way: Towards AI For Everyone, With Everyone, By Everyone Prof. Rada Mihalcea
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Special Session : The Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
12:30 PM - 01:00 PM	Poster Session
02:00 PM - 03:30 PM	Oral Presentations (Parallel Sessions) <i>Session 7: Speech Processing +OCR +Multimodality</i> <i>Session 8: NLP Applications</i>
02:30 PM - 03:30 PM	<i>Shared Task</i>
03:30 PM - 04:30 PM	Poster Booster Session <i>Poster Booster Presentation (10 no)</i> <i>Poster Booster Presentation (10No)</i>
04:30 PM - 05:00 PM	<i>Doctoral Consortium</i>
05:00 PM - 06:00 PM	Keynote 4: Machine Speech Chain: From Human Auditory Feedback Principles to Language Technology Empowering Indigenous Communities Prof. Sakriani Sakti