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LITHME Newsletter: #3

EU Cost Action 'Language in the Human-Machine Era' (LITHME)

FUTURE EVENTS

- The Society for Risk Analysis - Europe (SRA - E) Benelux conference

16 March, online

The program contains the following plenary sessions:

*Socially disruptive technologies. Keynote by Peter-Paul Verbeek
*A psychological vaccine against the risk of misinformation. Keynote by Sander van der Linden
*The privacy and security risks of in-home IoT. Panel discussion with Nelly Ghaoui, Katleen Gabriels, Jeroen van der Ham and George Loukas

During the breaks, there will be an opportunity to meet fellow researchers in a casual way.

More information about the program and registration: https://www.tue.nl/en/our-university/calendar-and-events/disruptive-technologies-risks-worth-taking/

- Online lectures and workshops hosted by the International Artificial Intelligence Doctoral Academy (I-AIDA):

*'There will be Artificial Emotional Intelligence' by Björn W. Schuller (9 March)
*'Towards Robust End-to-End Driving' by Andreas Geiger (23 March)

Abstracts, links and other details: http://www.i-aida.org/future-lectures/

NEWS FEED

- A Language AI Is Accurately Predicting Covid-19 'Escape' Mutations https://singularityhub.com/2021/01/19/a-language-ai-is-accurately-predicting-covid-19-escape-mutations/

- Spotify Secures Horrifying Patent to Monitor Users' Speech https://consequenceofsound.net/2021/01/spotify-patent-monitor-users-speech/?fbclid=IwAR00Nfqcm8O-4SrLrLMrOu4k6v0oAbDatHM7OzDv5EaWY5ynVGGSVfMWbTU

- Microsoft patents chatbot technology to revive dead loved ones https://singularityhub.com/2021/01/19/a-language-ai-is-accurately-predicting-covid-19-escape-mutations/

- AI will soon outperform us in disciplines we thought were uniquely human https://www.techradar.com/uk/news/ai-is-on-the-verge-of-mastering-the-creative-arts

- Facebook Shares Insights into its Coming Smart Glasses, New Developments in VR https://www.socialmediatoday.com/news/facebook-shares-insights-into-its-coming-smart-glasses-new-developments-in/592933/

Final chance:
have a say in the tech forecast report!

In the last months, the computational linguistics working group (WG1) and other enthusiastic members of LITHME have been working on a report about emerging technologies that are likely to influence language and communication.

The report titled 'Dawn of the Human-Machine Era' gives an overview of the current state and limitations of language technology as well as forecasts the near-future developments, placing a specific emphasis on societal issues which have to be tackled. It can serve as a reference for computational linguists, the diverse linguist community and a wider circle of stakeholders.

The expertise of all members is highly valued, and you can still contribute! Please go to the report on this page: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WsZKOuB2ZJ9XqKmL5OIyDqY5oXZfMw1A4IL1gs3Kr-k/edit#, and make additions or leave comments, ideally by 22 February!

The writing of the report is led by the chair of WG1, Rui Manuel Sousa Silva. The aim is to complete the report within a month, and to publish it on LITHME's website in the fourth week of March. Let's keep our fingers crossed, and - more importantly - help along to achieve the goal!

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Tomorrow!
WG4 hosts a discussion with Steven Bird

On Wednesday, 17 February, 11.00 to 13.00 CET, WG4 'Language diversity, vitality, and endangerment' will host a meeting with Steven Bird from Charles Darwin University, Australia (http://www.stevenbird.net). Everyone is welcome!

The discussion concerns Steven's latest paper "Decolonising Speech and Language Technology". Before attending, please take a moment to watch Steven's COLING2020 presentation (https://drive.google.com/file/d/19slKtTDpUobWw2nEIOV082WpDeFu85Hm/edit) and/or read the paper (https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/2020.coling-main.313/), so you can prepare some questions.

The meeting will take place in GoToMeeting: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/571862141. Those who are new to this software can download and install the application on this site: https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/571862141. The meeting will also be recorded.

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Upcoming in March:
Talk by the director of LangTec - Semantic Text Processing

On 25 March at 14.00 CET, Patrick McCrae (Managing Director of LangTec - Semantic Text Processing (www.langtec.de) will give a talk at the meeting of WG6 'Ideologies, beliefs, attitudes'.

The talk will give an insight into the working fields of the company and then plan to discuss the role of AI, automatic language processing and NLP in reproducing cultural biases and social and sociolinguistic hierarchies.

All members of LITHME are welcome. The link to the Zoom meeting is https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/256359782.

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Earlier meeting recordings now available

The presentations given at the meetings of WG3 'Language rights' and WG5 'Language learning and teaching' in January and early February are available for LITHME participants, and can be accessed here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yGdGCEhhIwJ7hJkB8SU9bEtW4_aSRaw3WDML71cIhFQ/edit?usp=sharing

Among other recordings, the following talks can be viewed:

- 'Assistive technologies for sign language users' by Matjaž Debevc, Associate Professor, University of Maribor, Slovenia, Institute for Media Communication.

- 'How new technology changes the language/media/society equation' by Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones and Tom Moring, co-authors of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (https://rm.coe.int/new-media-report-web-en/168098dd88).

- 'Highly efficient technologies relevant for teaching and learning vs. self-made technologies used in teachers' teaching and students' learning' by Christian Galinski, CEO of Infoterm - International Information Centre for Terminology.

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Planning media coverage of LITHME

A request has been sent to all MC members to list national media contacts and determine who will reach out to them with the press releases.

Please fill in the media contacts' spreadsheet by March 1! https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Z35UXA9JJEo7w1krsSJv8t1g770LTGVru6nYXG6MK7c/edit?usp=sharing

The generic English version of the press release will be provided by March 12. It can then be translated and localized to be sent out on March 23 (as the international press release) or shortly after that.

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CALL FOR PAPERS: special issue of the
Web of Science and Scopus journal EJIHPE

Our LITHME colleagues Marcel Pikhart and Blanka Klimova are guest editing the special issue of the European Journal of Investigation in Health, Psychology and Education (https://www.mdpi.com/journal/ejihpe).

The special issue is titled 'Psycholinguistics of Second Language Acquisition: New Trends and Current Approaches' (https://www.mdpi.com/journal/ejihpe/special_issues/psycholinguistic).

Instructions for contributing can be found here: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/ejihpe/instructions.

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