

CLPsych 2022

**Eighth Workshop on Computational Linguistics and Clinical
Psychology**

Proceedings of the Workshop

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Introduction

Introduction

Mental health is a pressing concern. Worldwide, mental health conditions are among the leading causes of disability [3, 7], and the global economic cost of mental health issues between 2011 and 2030, including neurological and substance use disorders, is projected to be more than \$16 trillion [1]. In the U.S. in 2020, suicide was in the top nine leading causes of death for people ages 10-64, and the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-14 and 25-34 [2]. Over the past several years, COVID-19 has created additional challenges to mental health. For instance, Sheridan et al. [5] found that suicide attempts in young children 10-12 have increased more than five-fold between 2010 and 2020. Furthermore, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy in 2021 called for a nationwide response to the mental health crisis that youth especially are facing during the pandemic [4].

For the Eighth Workshop on Computational Linguistics and Clinical Psychology (CLPsych), we adopt the theme "mental health in the face of change". This includes the kind of aspects natural language processing technologies need to address to deliver explainable and fair solutions that can be integrated in the clinical setting. Additionally, how these solutions can capture changes in mood over longitudinal and temporal data, which has been the focus of this year's shared task.

CLPsych was a hybrid workshop that accommodated both in-person and remote participation. It was collocated with NAACL'22, which took place in Seattle, Washington, USA on July 15th, 2022.

Since 2014, CLPsych has been successful in bringing together people from different backgrounds (e.g. mental health experts, clinicians, and computational linguists), to share and discuss their work and results. Its central goal is to build bridges so that these different disciplines can integrate to improve our understanding of mental health issues, and to deliver better mental health treatments and diagnoses to everybody.

CLPsych'22 included a shared task that focused on using longitudinal data to understand mood changes and relate them to risk assessment for suicidality. The shared task was organized by Adam Tsakalidis, Federico Nanni, and Maria Liakata. The overview of the shared task in this volume [6] discusses the tasks, team approaches and results, and lessons learned.

Our program committee included mental health and technological experts, in order to provide all the papers with more informative feedback that address both aspects. CLPsych'22 received a total of 23 papers for the main workshop, of which 15 were accepted; all 9 submitted shared task papers were also accepted. The organizing committee, with the help of the program committee scores, and feedback chose seven main workshop papers and two shared task papers as oral presentations, and the rest were presented in the poster session.

CLPsych'22 also hosted excellent invited speakers and panelists. Our keynote speakers were Finale Doshi-Velez (Harvard University), Shri Narayanan (University of Southern California), and Elizabeth Shriberg (Ellipsis Health and Johns Hopkins University). The talks were followed by a discussion moderated by April Foreman (Department of Veterans Affairs). Additionally, we hosted invited talks by David Crepaz (Mental Health Foundation in UK), Munmun De Choudhury (Georgia Tech), Mark Dredze (Johns Hopkins University), and Zac Imel (University of Utah). This was followed by a panel moderated by Paul Middlebrooks (creator and host of the Brain Inspired podcast).

The CLPsych organizing committee would like to extend special thanks to all the people that helped make the workshop a success. This includes and is not limited to our authors, shared task participants and organizers, program committee members, and the NORC team that helped in setting up the secure system for the shared task teams. We also would like to thank the North American chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics for making this workshop possible. Philip Resnik assisted with acquisition of sponsors, shared task data, and general advice. Special thanks to our generous sponsors: University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies (silver sponsor), Receptiviti (bronze sponsor), Rebecca Resnik & Associates (copper sponsor), and the American Association of Suicidology (copper sponsor). Their funds helped to support the workshop and its program, and provided support for attendees from underrepresented minorities and/or people with financial difficulties by covering their registration costs.

Ayah Zirikly, Dana Atzil-Slonim, Maria Liakata, Steven Bedrick, Bart Desmet, Molly Ireland, Andrew Lee, Sean MacAvaney, Matthew Purver, Rebecca Resnik, and Andrew Yates

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Organizing Committee

Workshop Co-chairs

Ayah Zirikly, Johns Hopkins University
Dana Atzil-Slonim, Bar-Ilan University
Maria Liakata, QMUL & The Alan Turing Institute

Organizing Committee

Steven Bedrick, Oregon Health & Science University
Bart Desmet, National Institutes of Health
Molly Ireland, Receptiviti
Andrew Lee, University of Michigan
Sean MacAvaney, University of Glasgow
Matthew Purver, QMUL
Rebecca Resnik, Rebecca Resnik and Associates, LLC
Andrew Yates, University of Amsterdam

Shared Task Organizers

Adam Tsakalidis, QMUL & The Alan Turing Institute
Federico Nanni, The Alan Turing Institute
Maria Liakata, QMUL & The Alan Turing Institute

Program Committee

Keynote Speakers

Finale Doshi-Velez, Harvard University
Shri Narayana, University of Southern California
Elizabeth Shriberg, Ellipsis Health and Johns Hopkins University
April Foreman, Department of Veterans Affairs (Moderator)

Invited Speakers and Panelists

David Crepaz, Mental Health Foundation in UK
Munmun De Choudhury, Georgia Tech
Mark Dredze, Johns Hopkins University
Zac Imel, University of Utah
Paul Middlebrooks, Brain Inspired (Moderator)

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Carlos Aguirre, Johns Hopkins University
Kfir Bar, Basis Technology
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Michael Tanana, University of Utah
Adam Tsakalidis, QMUL
Bo Wang, Massachusetts General Hospital

Cody Weston, Johns Hopkins University
Maria Wolters, University of Edinburgh
Elad Yom-Tov, Microsoft Research

Table of Contents

<i>DEPAC: a Corpus for Depression and Anxiety Detection from Speech</i> Mashrura Tasnim, Malikeh Ehghaghi, Brian Diep and Jekaterina Novikova.....	1
<i>The ethical role of computational linguistics in digital psychological formulation and suicide prevention.</i> Martin Orr, Kirsten Van Kessel and Dave Parry	17
<i>Explaining Models of Mental Health via Clinically Grounded Auxiliary Tasks</i> Ayah Zirikly and Mark Dredze	30
<i>Identifying stable speech-language markers of autism in children: Preliminary evidence from a longitudinal telephony-based study</i> Sunghye Cho, Riccardo Fusaroli, Maggie Rose Pelella, Kimberly Tena, Azia Knox, Aili Hauptmann, Maxine Covello, Alison Russell, Judith Miller, Alison Hulin, Jennifer Uzokwe, Kevin Walker, James Fiumara, Juhi Pandey, Christopher Chatham, Christopher Cieri, Robert Schultz, Mark Liberman and Julia Parish-morris.....	40
<i>Psychotherapy is Not One Thing: Simultaneous Modeling of Different Therapeutic Approaches</i> Maitrey Mehta, Derek Caperton, Katherine Axford, Lauren Weitzman, David Atkins, Vivek Srikumar and Zac Imel.....	47
<i>Then and Now: Quantifying the Longitudinal Validity of Self-Disclosed Depression Diagnoses</i> Keith Harrigian and Mark Dredze.....	59
<i>Tracking Mental Health Risks and Coping Strategies in Healthcare Workers' Online Conversations Across the COVID-19 Pandemic</i> Molly Ireland, Kaitlin Adams and Sean Farrell	76
<i>Are You Really Okay? A Transfer Learning-based Approach for Identification of Underlying Mental Illnesses</i> Ankit Aich and Natalie Parde.....	89
<i>Comparing emotion feature extraction approaches for predicting depression and anxiety</i> Hannah Burkhardt, Michael Pullmann, Thomas Hull, Patricia Aren and Trevor Cohen	105
<i>Detecting Suicidality with a Contextual Graph Neural Network</i> Daeun Lee, Migyeong Kang, Minji Kim and Jinyoung Han.....	116
<i>Identifying Distorted Thinking in Patient-Therapist Text Message Exchanges by Leveraging Dynamic Multi-Turn Context</i> Kevin Lybarger, Justin Tauscher, Xiruo Ding, Dror Ben-zeev and Trevor Cohen	126
<i>Learning to Automate Follow-up Question Generation using Process Knowledge for Depression Triage on Reddit Posts</i> Shrey Gupta, Anmol Agarwal, Manas Gaur, Kaushik Roy, Vignesh Narayanan, Ponnuram Kumaraguru and Amit Sheth	137
<i>Masking Morphosyntactic Categories to Evaluate Saliency for Schizophrenia Diagnosis</i> Yaara Shriki, Ido Ziv, Nachum Dershowitz, Eiran Harel and Kfir Bar	148
<i>Measuring Linguistic Synchrony in Psychotherapy</i> Natalie Shapira, Dana Atzil-Slonim, Rivka Tuval Mashiach and Ori Shapira	158

<i>Nonsuicidal Self-Injury and Substance Use Disorders: A Shared Language of Addiction</i>	
Salvatore Giorgi, Mckenzie Himelein-wachowiak, Daniel Habib, Lyle Ungar and Brenda Curtis	177
<i>Overview of the CLPsych 2022 Shared Task: Capturing Moments of Change in Longitudinal User Posts</i>	
Adam Tsakalidis, Jenny Chim, Iman Munire Bilal, Ayah Zirikly, Dana Atzil-Slonim, Federico Nanni, Philip Resnik, Manas Gaur, Kaushik Roy, Becky Inkster, Jeff Leintz and Maria Liakata . . .	184
<i>Approximate Nearest Neighbour Extraction Techniques and Neural Networks for Suicide Risk Prediction in the CLPsych 2022 Shared Task</i>	
Hermenegildo Fabregat Marcos, Ander Cejudo, Juan Martinez-romo, Alicia Perez, Lourdes Araujo, Nuria Lebea, Maite Oronoz and Arantza Casillas	199
<i>Capturing Changes in Mood Over Time in Longitudinal Data Using Ensemble Methodologies</i>	
Ana-maria Bucur, Hyewon Jang and Farhana Ferdousi Liza	205
<i>Detecting Moments of Change and Suicidal Risks in Longitudinal User Texts Using Multi-task Learning</i>	
Tayyaba Azim, Loitongbam Singh and Stuart Middleton	213
<i>Emotionally-Informed Models for Detecting Moments of Change and Suicide Risk Levels in Longitudinal Social Media Data</i>	
Ulya Bayram and Lamia Benhiba	219
<i>Exploring transformers and time lag features for predicting changes in mood over time</i>	
John Culnan, Damian Romero Diaz and Steven Bethard	226
<i>Multi-Task Learning to Capture Changes in Mood Over Time</i>	
Prasadith Kirinde Gamaarachchige, Ahmed Hussein Orabi, Mahmoud Hussein Orabi and Diana Inkpen	232
<i>Predicting Moments of Mood Changes Overtime from Imbalanced Social Media Data</i>	
Falwah Alhamed, Julia Ive and Lucia Specia	239
<i>Towards Capturing Changes in Mood and Identifying Suicidality Risk</i>	
Sravani Boinepelli, Shivansh Subramanian, Abhijeeth Singam, Tathagata Raha and Vasudeva Varma	245
<i>WWBP-SQT-lite: Multi-level Models and Difference Embeddings for Moments of Change Identification in Mental Health Forums</i>	
Adithya V Ganesan, Vasudha Varadarajan, Juhi Mittal, Shashanka Subrahmanya, Matthew Matero, Nikita Soni, Sharath Chandra Guntuku, Johannes Eichstaedt and H. Andrew Schwartz	251