

StarSEM 2023

**The 12th Joint Conference on Lexical and Computational
Semantics**

Proceedings of the Conference (*SEM 2023)

July 13-14, 2023

The StarSEM organizers gratefully acknowledge the support from the following sponsors.

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Preface by the Conference Organizers

We are excited to welcome you to *SEM 2023, the 12th Joint Conference on Lexical and Computational Semantics! We are pleased to present this volume containing the accepted long and short papers. *SEM 2023 follows a hybrid format (remote and in-person) and will be held on July 13th-14th 2023, co-located with ACL 2023 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Since its first edition in 2012, *SEM has become a major venue to present recent advances in all areas of lexical and computational semantics, including semantic representations, theoretical semantics, multilingual semantics, and others. *SEM is sponsored by SIGLEX, the ACL Special Interest Group on the Lexicon.

*SEM 2023 accepted both papers submitted directly through the START system and those already reviewed through ARR (ACL Rolling Review). In total, we received 95 submissions in 9 areas:

- Commonsense reasoning and natural language understanding
- Discourse, dialogue, and generation
- Lexical semantics
- Multilinguality
- Psycholinguistics, cognitive linguistics, and semantic processing
- Resources and evaluation
- Semantic composition and sentence-level semantics
- Semantics in NLP applications
- Theoretical and formal semantics

We compiled an exciting and wide-ranging program, accepting a total of 45 papers – 29 long papers and 16 short papers. In addition, 8 papers accepted to ACL Findings will be presented as part of the *SEM poster session.

The submitted papers were carefully evaluated by a program committee led by 13 area chairs, who coordinated a panel of 140 reviewers. Because the number of submissions was almost double our expectation, we recruited a number of late reviewers and emergency reviewers. The reviews were almost all of very high quality, and for that we are extremely grateful! All but a handful of papers were reviewed by three reviewers, who were encouraged to discuss any divergence in evaluations. Area chairs then added meta-reviews to explain their accept/reject suggestions. The final selection was made by the program co-chairs after a check of the reviews, meta-reviews, and discussions with the area chairs.

We are also very excited to have three excellent keynote speakers: Jessy Li (University of Texas at Austin) presents recent work on how we might better model discourse in the age of large language models, Hinrich Schütze (University of Munich) talks about massively multilingual language models and issues related to their semantic evaluation, and finally Danushka Bollegala (Amazon and University of Liverpool) discusses the topic of lexical semantics over time.

We are honored to serve as the organizing committee for *SEM 2023, and we absolutely could not have made this happen without a huge amount of help. First, tremendous thanks to all area chairs and reviewers for their invaluable help in selecting the program, for their engagement in thoughtful discussions, and for providing valuable feedback to the authors. Second, thanks to our Publicity chair Malihe Alikhani (University of Pittsburgh) who took care of website and social media updates. Next, thanks to our Publication chair Luis Espinosa-Anke (Cardiff University and AMPLYFI) for being the mastermind and driving force behind compilation of the proceedings, and finally the ACL 2023 workshop organizers for help and support with all organizational aspects of the conference. Finally, thank you to the authors

and presenters for making *SEM 2023 such an engaging and exciting event! We hope that you, dear audience, will find the content of these proceedings as engaging as we do, and we hope to see you at future iterations of *SEM!

Jose Camacho-Collados and Alexis Palmer, Program co-chairs

Mohammad Taher Pilehvar, General chair

Organizing Committee

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Jie Zhao, Microsoft
Yi Zhou, Cardiff University

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09:15 - 10:30 *Invited Talk - Jessy Li*

10:30 - 11:00 *Morning break*

11:00 - 12:20 *Applications*

Evaluating Factual Consistency of Texts with Semantic Role Labeling
Jing Fan, Dennis Aumiller and Michael Gertz

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14:00 - 15:30 *Semantic composition and sentence-level semantics*

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Query Generation Using GPT-3 for CLIP-Based Word Sense Disambiguation for Image Retrieval

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15:30 - 16:00 *Afternoon break*

16:00 - 17:30 *In-person poster session*

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Adverbs, Surprisingly

Dmitry Nikolaev, Collin Baker, Miriam R. L. Petruck and Sebastian Pad

Unsupervised Mapping of Arguments of Deverbal Nouns to Their Corresponding Verbal Labels

Aviv Weinstein and Yoav Goldberg

DMLM: Descriptive Masked Language Modeling

Edoardo Barba, Niccolò Campolungo and Roberto Navigli

Thursday, July 13, 2023 (continued)

Exploring Non-Verbal Predicates in Semantic Role Labeling: Challenges and Opportunities

Riccardo Orlando, Simone Conia and Roberto Navigli

Unsupervised Paraphrasing of Multiword Expressions

Takashi Wada, Yuji Matsumoto, Timothy Baldwin and Jey Han Lau

Incorporating Graph Information in Transformer-based AMR Parsing

Pavlo Vasylenko, Pere-Lluís Huguet Cabot, Abelardo Carlos Martínez Lorenzo and Roberto Navigli

Additive manifesto decomposition: A policy domain aware method for understanding party positioning

Tanise Ceron, Dmitry Nikolaev and Sebastian Padó

RQUGE: Reference-Free Metric for Evaluating Question Generation by Answering the Question

Alireza Mohammadshahi, Thomas Scialom, Majid Yazdani, Pouya Yanki, Angela Fan, James Henderson and Marziah Saeidi

Figurative Language Processing: A Linguistically Informed Feature Analysis of the Behavior of Language Models and Humans

Hyewon Jang, Qi Yu and Diego Frassinelli

Friday, July 14, 2023

08:30 - 10:30 *Virtual poster session*

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10:30 - 11:00 *Morning break*

Friday, July 14, 2023 (continued)

11:00 - 12:00 *Invited Talk - Danushka Bollegala*

12:00 - 12:30 *Oral presentations*

Limits for learning with language models

Nicholas Asher, Swarnadeep Bhar, Akshay Chaturvedi, Julie Hunter and Soumya Paul

JSEEGraph: Joint Structured Event Extraction as Graph Parsing

Huiling You, Lilja Vrelid and Samia Touileb

12:30 - 14:00 *Lunch break*

14:00 - 15:35 *Generation and understanding*

Including Facial Expressions in Contextual Embeddings for Sign Language Generation

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Zeyu Zhang and Steven Bethard

Probing neural language models for understanding of words of estimative probability

Damien Sileo and Marie-francine Moens

Friday, July 14, 2023 (continued)

15:30 - 16:00 *Afternoon break*

16:00 - 16:50 *Lexical semantics*

Leveraging Active Learning to Minimise SRL Annotation Across Corpora

Skatje Myers and Martha Palmer

Seeking Closure: Robust Hypernym extraction from BERT with Anchored Prompts

Chunhua Liu, Trevor Cohn and Lea Frermann

Leverage Points in Modality Shifts: Comparing Language-only and Multimodal Word Representations

Lisa Bylinina, Denis Paperno and Alexey Tikhonov

16:40 - 16:50 *Closing Remarks*