SEMDIAL 2016

JerSem

Proceedings of the 20th Workshop on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue

Julie Hunter, Mandy Simons, and Matthew Stone (eds.)
New Brunswick, NJ, 16–18 July 2016

SemDial Workshop Series

http://www.illc.uva.nl/semdial/

JerSem Website

http://semantics.rutgers.edu/jersem/

Preface

JerSem marks the twentieth year of the annual SemDial Workshop on the Semantics and Pragmatics of Dialogue! We are delighted to hold the meeting in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and to follow up 2011's Los Angelogue by bringing the SemDial meeting to North America for only the second time. This year, we have collocated SemDial with the North American Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (http://nasslli2016.rutgers.edu/). Both events are known for bringing together disciplines from across cognitive science and we hope the opportunity for extended participation in both events strengthens this cross-fertilization. To capitalize on overlaps with NASSLLI on questions under discussion and the problems of dialogue, we organized the first day of SemDial as a special session on "Questions under Discussion", to focus on the role of discourse purposes in utterance interpretation and dialogue structure, and their reflection in utterance form.

We received a total of twenty full paper submissions. Ten of those papers will be presented at JerSem, after selection based on a round of anonymous peer review that secured written evaluations from three experts on each submission. We are extremely grateful to the Program Committee members for their very detailed and helpful reviews. The poster session hosts seven additional contributions that came in response to a call for late-breaking posters and demonstrations. All accepted full papers and poster abstracts are included in this volume. We are pleased that the mix of papers continues to reflect the diverse range of methods available to dialogue research, including experimental studies, corpus studies, and formal and computational models.

The JerSem program features four keynote presentations, by Jonathan Ginzburg, Kordula de Kuthy, Nigel Ward and Elisabeth Camp (in order of appearance). We thank them for participating in SemDial and are honored to have them at the workshop. Abstracts of their contributions are also included in this volume.

JerSem has received generous financial support from the Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science (http://ruccs.rutgers.edu). Partial funding for the Special Session "Questions Under Discussion" has been provided by NSF support of project number 1452674 "What's the question? A cross-linguistic investigation into compositional and pragmatic constraints on the question under discussion." We are very grateful for this sponsorship. We have also been given the endorsement of SIGdial, the special interest group on discourse and dialogue of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the International Speech Communication Association.

Last but not least we would like to thank everyone else who helped with Page i of 5the organisation, particularly acting RuCCS directors Ernie Lepore and Gretchen Chapman, RuCCs staff members Sue Cosentino and Jo'Ann Meli, and our student helpers.

Julie Hunter, Mandy Simons and Matthew Stone
New Brunswick, NJ
July 2016

Program Committee

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Matthew Stone (co-chair), Rutgers University

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