WORKSHOP TITLE:
EMOT (Emotions, Metaphors, Ontology & Terminology) during disasters
Portorož, Slovenia
WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

EMOT at LREC 2016 will look at how emotions are articulated in text-based communications where there are many senders (and receivers) of messages communicating on a single emotive topic over a short period of time – usually a few days. Disasters of a great variety, including financial crises, weather-related events, and terror-motivated incidents, motivate senders and receivers to exchange news and views through formal media and lately through social media. These news and views comprise considerable emotive content; use of *emoticons* in text messages is an innovative device. The news includes alerts and warnings from the authorities to the actual and potential victims of a disaster, and now social media allows victims to send information to their cohorts and to the authorities. The views are in opinion columns of newspapers and in blogs and twitter messages – mainly from the victims to the authorities, to affirm the messages sent by others and to criticise the news and views.

Metaphors are used in these communications: *avalanches, earthquakes, floods* and *tsunamis,* are used in all the above mentioned disaster communications for example; and metaphors of *freedom, liberty* and *tyranny* are used across the disaster typology. Metaphor is also used to communicate indirectly about events, euphemistically and dysphemistically. Disasters have to be classified if only to distinguish a major disaster from a minor disaster: the classification and categorisation process requires an ontological understanding of *disaster* in the first place. Ontology of disaster is an evolving subject and needs clarifications and understanding. An ontological understanding helps in creating terminology of a specific disaster where terms used elsewhere are elaborated with a different nuance emphasising one aspect of the disaster, focusing on victim needs, or dealing with the needs of the rescuers. The harvesting and analysis of social media has led to open questions about the rights and wrongs of such activities: The ethics of social media usage is equally important for this workshop

This workshop will look at the collection and analysis of social media-based communications during major disasters. Emotive and metaphorical words are used during disasters by the disaster victims and their rescuers. The rescuers come from different backgrounds – medics, fire services, police, civil protection agencies – and each uses terminology that has a unique ontological commitment. The processing of social media based communications is fraught with the limitations of bandwidth on the one hand and with the potential of the technology for surveillance. It is important that language technologies be used to ensure due anonymity of the people involved and to ensure the existence of checks and balances.

MOTIVATION AND TOPICS OF INTEREST:
Social media now plays a major role in almost all communications, including disaster communications, and allows for a multi-way communication between the large groups of people, especially victims and their rescuers. Language is used not only to transmit written and spoken language excerpts but also for annotating still and video images. Disaster management systems require natural language processing platform that have in-built privacy measures. The multi-disciplinary nature of the rescuers requires a harmonisation of terminology and an understanding of ontologies used by different rescue agencies. Special language techniques are required for ensuring minimal ambiguity in disaster communications. The key topics are:
emotive and metaphorical language;
ontology of evolving subject domains;
terminology of multi-disciplinary subjects
social media analytics;
disaster communications;
cybersecurity for social media communications;
legal and ethical issues in large scale collection of personal data during a disaster.

SUMMARY OF THE CALL:
This half-day workshop will deal with recent advances in social and legacy media analytics, emotive and metaphorical language – both verbal and non-verbal – and the attendant cybersecurity, legal and ethical issues in large scale exchange and collections of data through social and legacy media during events such as natural disasters. It is necessary to examine what aspects of communication social and legacy media analytics aims to capture, and establish how and in what way this may be evaluated.

The use of social and legacy media is instrumental in disaster monitoring and management during natural disasters. Systems largely rely on textual information, but the advent first of the internet and then of social media has increased the number of texts, images/videos that can be circulated quickly and need to be analysed to provide emergency relief. Communication through social media is no longer one-way, i.e. from citizens to emergency management (EM) organisations, but rather two-way, from citizens to EM organisations and from the latter to the former. There is always a risk that information can go viral and spread panic, while the broader legal, ethical and human rights impact is increasingly debated with reference to media comprising information about people, places and events in situations as intrusive as disaster and emergency relief. This workshop will bring together experts in, and users of, intelligent information gathering and processing. The topics covered will include:

- emotive and figurative language in all types of social and legacy media communication;
- automatic extraction of emotions and metaphors;
- creation and evaluation of multidisciplinary ontology and terminology;
- effective multicultural communications using social and formal media;
- trust-building cybersecurity processes including non-disclosure of sensitive data for purposes other than disaster mitigation and relief;
- emotive language use in disaster communications: early warning systems, disaster monitoring and mitigation, and post-disaster emergency relief
- legal, ethical and human rights issues in large scale collections of personal data during a disaster.

The workshop will provide a welcoming forum for presenting advances in analytical methods of verbal and non-verbal communication. It is intended for academics in information extraction and text analytics, disaster management and communication professionals.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:
The workshop will have four sessions: Emotive and metaphorical language; Terminology and Ontology; Language for leveraging image data; Ethical, Legal and Human Rights Issues

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:
None

Submissions
Authors are invited to submit full papers on original, unpublished work in the topic area of this workshop. The language of the workshop is English and submissions should conform to LREC 2016 paper submission instructions. We will accept submission of both long (up to 8 pages) and short papers (up to 4 pages) to be presented as long or short oral presentation at the workshop.

The papers of the workshop will be published as online proceedings. The reviewing of the papers will be blind and the papers should not include the authors' names and affiliations. Each submission will be reviewed by at least two members of the program committee. Accepted papers will be published in the workshop proceedings. Abstracts should be submitted electronically no later than 15th February 2016. The only accepted format for electronically submitted abstracts and papers is Adobe PDF.

Please submit your paper on the LREC site: https://www.softconf.com/lrec2016/EMOT/

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15th February 2016
Notification of acceptance of abstracts: 29th February 2016
Final submission of manuscripts: 31st March 2016

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