

Welcome to the 4th Swiss Text Analytics Conference!

The field of Text Analytics and Natural Language Processing is rapidly progressing and adapting. Four years ago, when we organized the first SwissText conference, we called it “Swiss Text Analytics Conference”, since much of the research and applications were focussed on “Text Analytics” at the time: text classification, sentiment analysis and named entity recognition were the predominant topics in the 2016 edition. Since then, every year, topics have shifted towards more complex and challenging areas. This year, there seems to be a major interest in speech processing, especially for standard German and Swiss German, for which we had eight presentations and a workshop at the conference.

The program of this year's conference was again crammed with interesting events and highlights: there were more than 40 presentations and posters from industry and academia, and three high-profile keynotes; we ran a Demo Session for the first time, in which more than 15 companies and research institutions presented their solutions live and interactively; we had workshops on NLP for Business and on Swiss German, as well as a tutorial for building chatbots; and, finally, we hosted the evaluation campaign and award ceremony of the German Text Summarization Challenge. More than 200 researchers and practitioners visited the conference and enjoyed insightful presentations, interactive workshops, and fruitful discussions during the coffee breaks.

Content Guideline

These proceedings of the 4th Swiss Text Analytics Conference 2019 (SwissText 2019) consist of three parts:

- Part 1: Full Scientific Papers (peer-reviewed)
- Part 2: Abstracts of the Swiss Track Presentations (not peer-reviewed)
- Part 3: System Descriptions of the German Summarization Challenge (not peer-reviewed)

The scientific papers were selected in a standard double-blind peer-review process. We received 10 submissions in the “Scientific Track” of the conference, out of which 5 papers were selected by the international program committee. One additional paper was invited after the conference, based on their excellent presentation at the conference.

SwissText 2019 also had a “Swiss Track”, where we invited submissions of results with a strong focus on Swiss industry and research. Each submission had to have a certain "Swissness" factor, which could be, for instance, that the authors are located in Switzerland, the project provides solutions for one (or more) of the languages of Switzerland (including Swiss dialects), the product focuses primarily on the Swiss market etc. Submission consisted of a simple one-page abstract, and were selected by a second program committee which comprised of Swiss experts in text analytics.

In the third part of these proceedings, we publish the results of the German Summarization Challenge: an overview of the challenge and system descriptions of the participating teams.

Acknowledgements

Organizing SwissText involves a huge amount of effort, and I would like to thank all contributors for their great support. First and foremost, I would like to thank Fernando, Don, Jan, Andrea,

Pamela, Conny, Annette, Ada, Pius, Amrita, and Manuela from the organizing committee for their support and great work. They have spent literally hundreds of hours of their precious time, and without them, this conference would not have been possible!

In addition, we are grateful to all keynote speakers, speakers and poster presenters for their contributions, the organizers of the workshops for their excellent work, and the members of our program committees for their constructive and valuable feedback which helped to compile an appealing and interesting program for the conference.

Finally, I would like to thank partners and sponsors for their generous support, and to Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) for hosting the conference on its campus.

It was a great pleasure for me to organize and chair this conference, and I am already looking forward to the next edition of the Swiss Text Analytics conference!

Mark Cieliebak
Conference Chair

SwissText 2019 - Organization

The 4th Swiss Text Analytics Conference was organized and hosted by Zurich University of Applied Sciences in Winterthur, and co-organized by the Swiss Alliance for Data-Intensive Services.

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Swiss Track

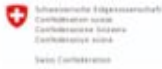
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