

## Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> SwissText and the 16<sup>th</sup> KONVENS Conference

The field of Text Analytics and Natural Language Processing continues to grow. Conferences and meetups are witnessing increasing numbers of participants. Many advanced NLP applications (as for instance chatbots, machine translation, and sentiment analysis) have found their ways into the mainstream.

SwissText has been organized by the Zurich University of Applied Sciences since 2016 and has attracted large crowds to Winterthur each year. KONVENS is a bi-annual conference in Germany and Austria which has been running since 1992, and was now meant to take place in Switzerland for the first time. We seized this opportunity to combine the application-oriented SwissText with the more research-oriented KONVENS into a joint conference.

Our original plan was to stage this event as a lively conference at the University of Zurich. Unfortunately, the Corona crisis forced us to switch to an online format. This is certainly different from the meeting we had envisioned, but we also see advantages such as easier participation without travel expenses and reduced climate impact.

Our call for papers asked for scientific papers as well as abstracts for posters and demos. We received 70 submissions and selected 38 for presentation at the conference. In the online setting, we removed the distinction between paper and poster presentations. However, in the proceedings you will find the full papers and abstracts in separate sections.

The conference was accompanied by a tutorial on "Building a local voice assistant with open source tools" and by the "1<sup>st</sup> Regional European Language Grid (ELG) Workshop for Switzerland, Austria, and Germany". In addition, five shared tasks were hosted at the conference, where the latter four were within the GermEval 2020 Campaign:

- Hierarchical Patent Classification
- Classification and Regression of Cognitive and Motivational Style from Text
- Swiss German Language Detection
- 2<sup>nd</sup> German Text Summarization Challenge
- Low-Resource Speech-to-Text

We would like to thank our keynote speakers Anya Belz (University of Brighton), Roberto Navigli (Sapienza University, Rome), and Holger Schwenk (Facebook AI Research, Paris). Their perspectives and contributions are much appreciated. A big thank you also to our workshop organizers and the organizers of the shared tasks, as well as to all members of our programme committees for their excellent work.

We are grateful to our sponsors and partners, who supported us in this unusual setting. In particular we would like to acknowledge the generous support by InnoSuisse (the Swiss Innovation Agency) and our co-organizer, the Swiss Alliance for Data-intensive Services. We would also like to highlight the flexibility of the city and canton of Zurich, who allowed us to turn the reception grant into chocolate presents for our speakers. In this way we would like to share some of the charm of Switzerland with our guests at home.

Last but not least, we would like to thank Manuela Hürlimann and Sarah Ebling, who have been the main organizers. They were the driving forces of this conference, and they basically organized two conferences: first an on-premise conference (which had to be cancelled), and then the online conference. In this endeavour, Manuela and Sarah have been assisted by Debora, Don, Noëmi, Fernando, Jan, Conny, Katya, Esin, Annette, Pius, and many more for various tasks. Without them this conference would not have been possible!

It was a great pleasure for us to organize and chair this joint conference. Switching it to an online format has been an adventure trip. We hope you find it worthwhile.

*Mark Cieliebak and Martin Volk*  
Conference Chairs

## Content Guideline

These are the Joint Proceedings of the 5th Swiss Text Analytics Conference (SwissText) and the 16<sup>th</sup> KONVENS Conference. The proceedings consist of three parts:

- Part 1: Full Scientific Papers (peer-reviewed)
- Part 2: Results and System Descriptions of Shared Tasks
- Part 3: Abstracts of Applied Presentations (not peer-reviewed)

The scientific papers were selected in a standard double-blind peer-review process. We received 36 submissions in the “Scientific Track” of the conference, out of which 14 were selected by the international program committee.

The conference also had an Applied Track and a Demo Track, where we invited submissions of results with a strong focus on applications. Submission consisted of a simple one-page abstract, and were selected by a second program committee which comprised of Swiss experts in text analytics.

Finally, in the third part of these proceedings, we publish the results of the shared tasks that were hosted at the conference. For each task, there is a task description paper by the organizers and the system descriptions by the participants. Note that these papers were not peer-reviewed.

## SwissText&KONVENS 2020 – Organization

The Joint SwissText & KONVENS Conference was organized by the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) and the University of Zurich (UZH), and co-organized by the Swiss Alliance for Data-Intensive Services.



Universität  
Zürich<sup>UZH</sup>



### **Chairs:**

Mark Cieliebak and Martin Volk

### **Main Organizers:**

Manuela Hürlimann and Sarah Ebling

### **Organizing Team:**

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Don Tuggener  
Esin Gedik  
Fernando Benites  
Jan Deriu  
Katsiaryna Mlynchyk  
Noëmi Aepli  
Pius von Däniken

## Program Committees

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- Manfred Vogel, FHNW
- Tim Vor der Brück, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU)
- Fabio Rinaldi, Dalle Molle Institute for Artificial Intelligence Research
- Roberto Mastropietro, SUPSI
- Martin Jaggi, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
- Jürgen Spielberger, Zurich University of Applied Sciences
- Hatem Ghorbel, University of Applied Sciences HES-SO
- Andrei Popescu-Belis, HEIG-VD / HES-SO
- Thoralf Mildenerger, Zurich University of Applied Sciences
- Don Tuggener, Zurich University of Applied Sciences
- Fernando Benites, Zurich University of Applied Sciences
- Egon Werlen, Swiss Distance University of Applied Sciences (FFHS)
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- Thilo Stadelmann, Zurich University of Applied Sciences
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- René Schumann, SGAICO
- Jacky Casas, HES-SO (University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland)

### Scientific Track:

- Noëmi Aepli, University of Zurich
- Adrien Barbaresi, BBAW
- Valerio Basile, University of Turin
- Fernando Benites, Zurich University of Applied Sciences
- Chris Biemann, U Hamburg
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