

Preface

The annual Text, Speech, and Dialogue Conference (TSD), which originated in 1998, is approaching the end of its second decade. In the course of this time thousands of authors from all over the world have contributed to the proceedings. TSD constitutes a recognized platform for the presentation and discussion of state-of-the-art technology and recent achievements in the field of natural language processing. It has become an interdisciplinary forum, interweaving the themes of speech technology and language processing. The conference attracts researchers not only from Central and Eastern Europe but also from other parts of the world. Indeed, one of its goals has always been to bring together NLP researchers with different interests from different parts of the world and to promote their mutual cooperation.

One of the declared goals of the conference has always been, as its title says, twofold: not only to deal with language processing and dialogue systems as such, but also to stimulate dialogue between researchers in the two areas of NLP, i.e., between text and speech people. In our view, the TSD conference was successful in this respect in 2016 again. We had the pleasure to welcome three prominent invited speakers this year: Hinrich Schütze presented a keynote talk about a current hot topic, deep learning of word representation, under the title *Embeddings! For Which Objects? For Which Objectives?*; Ido Dagan's talk dealt with *Natural Language Knowledge Graphs*; and Elmar Nöth reported on *Remote Monitoring of Neurodegeneration through Speech*. Invited talk abstracts are attached below.

This volume contains the proceedings of the 19th TSD conference, held in Brno, Czech Republic, in September 2016. During the review process, 62 papers were accepted out of 127 submitted, an acceptance rate of 49 %.

We would like to thank all the authors for the efforts they put into their submissions and the members of the Program Committee and reviewers who did a wonderful job selecting the best papers. We are also grateful to the invited speakers for their contributions. Their talks provide insight into important current issues, applications, and techniques related to the conference topics.

Special thanks are due to the members of Local Organizing Committee for their tireless effort in organizing the conference.

We hope that the readers will benefit from the results of this event and disseminate the ideas of the TSD conference all over the world. Enjoy the proceedings!

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