

# Preface

Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> SIGdial Workshop on Discourse and Dialogue. SIGdial is the ACL Special Interest Group in Discourse and Dialogue which was formed in late 1997. With the increasing importance of our area of research there has been a perceived need in the SIGdial Community for a regular workshop spanning the entire field of discourse and dialogue. While there has been a lot of activity in the field, and fairly frequent workshops on various sub-topics, there has not been a regular place for presentation of discourse and dialogue research to receive attention from the larger SIGdial community. This workshop is intended to be the first in a regular series which serves to bring the SIGdial community together.

Topics for this workshop include formal, corpus-based, implementational and analytical work on discourse and dialogue, with a focus on the following three themes:

- Dialogue Systems, i.e. models, methods, strategies, tools and architectures related to spoken, multi-modal, and text/web based dialogue systems.
- Corpora and Corpus Tools, i.e. support for corpus-based work on discourse and dialogue.
- Pragmatic and/or Semantic Modelling, i.e. the pragmatics and/or semantics of discourse and dialogue (beyond a single sentence), and specific aspects of discourse and dialogue structure.

In addition to these three themes, this year's workshop includes a special-theme session on

- Principles for Evaluation of Dialogue Systems.

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