



PolText 2016

International Conference on the Advances in Computational Analysis of Political Text

14 - 16. 7. 2016, Dubrovnik

OBJECTIVES

Technological developments, digital media, and advances in open government practices have made a vast amount of information available for social scientists. Most of this information is available as text. News portals disseminate political stories at unprecedented rates, politicians and political elites advertise their own messages through social media outlets and crowdsourcing provides new affordable and quick venues for asking citizens what they think about politics. With political texts at our fingertips, vexing research questions are emerging.

Extracting, organizing, and analyzing large amounts of textual information can be quite resource-intensive with many political scientists lacking the skills necessary for dealing with such data. Fortunately, recent developments of cutting edge computational technologies such as natural language-processing, machine learning, and information extraction techniques has made research utilizing text-as-data more accessible and appealing.

On the other hand, computational scholars equipped with novel technologies and linguistic solutions often have less experience with social science theories and less contextual knowledge about political data. There is a mutual benefit in connecting disparate worlds of computational text analysis and political science in analyzing political research problems. The aim of this conference is to facilitate this multidisciplinary cooperation.

We are interested in contributions on computational approaches in analysing political text such as government speeches, political debates, social media, media content, party manifestos and/or legislation.

This conference is looking for, but not limited to, contributions from the following topics with a focus on politically relevant data:

- text categorization
- topic modeling
- information extraction
- corpus analysis
- sentiment analysis
- stance classification and ideal point estimation
- argumentation mining
- political reputation analysis
- techniques for multilingual text analysis
- other language technologies

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

Authors are invited to submit abstracts (up to 500 words) in the topic areas of the conference.

Abstracts should be submitted electronically via the [EasyChair](https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=poltext2016) (<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=poltext2016>) conference submission website.

After acceptance, authors should prepare short papers (may consist of up to five (5) double column pages of content, with two (2) additional pages for references). Templates and instructions on papers format will be sent to the authors of accepted proposals and made available on the conference website. All accepted abstracts will be published in the format of short papers in the conference proceedings and disseminated electronically before the conference.

Authors of selected high-quality contributions will be invited to extended papers for consideration in a special issue of a selected interdisciplinary journal. These submissions will undergo the journal's regular peer-review process.

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract submission deadline: 1 February 2016

Notification of acceptance: 15 March 2016

Short papers and registration: 3 June 2016

Conference: 14 - 16 July 2016

LOCATION

The conference will be held at the [Centre for Advanced Academic Studies](#) (CAAS), located in the very heart of Dubrovnik. CAAS is founded and managed by the University of Zagreb. CAAS conducts multidisciplinary scientific programs including postgraduate courses, international interdisciplinary workshops, scientific conferences and seminars, summer schools, TEMPUS projects, UNESCO programs and various research projects with international partners. Also, CAAS is hosting several other institutions or permanent projects and [Inter - University Centre Dubrovnik \(IUC\)](#) is one of them.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL

Accommodation will be provided for one author of each accepted paper. We encourage participation of junior scholars by providing a small number of travel grants. We will also provide assistance in finding accommodation at discount rates for co-authors.

The conference includes a complimentary reception (Thursday) and dinner (Saturday) for all participants as well as lunch and refreshments during the conference.

All participants are kindly asked to take necessary steps for their travel arrangements soon after their participation is confirmed by the Organizing Committee.

The Dubrovnik Airport has very good connections in July with all major European airports. Alternative is to fly to Zagreb, Split or Zadar and take a bus to Dubrovnik.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The conference is organized by Daniela Širinić, Jan Šnajder, Shaun Bevan and Zoltán Fazekas.

Daniela is Research Fellow at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb and a doctoral candidate in comparative politics at the Central European University. She is also the principal investigator of the Croatian Policy Agendas Project. This conference is the integral part of the project and is sponsored by the European Social Fund. Daniela's research

interests include agenda-setting, political representation, political participation, data journalism, and open data practices.

Jan is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing at the University of Zagreb and a member of Text Analysis and Knowledge Engineering Lab (TakeLab). Jan's research interests are in natural language processing, machine learning, and language technologies. His current focus is on lexical semantics, information extraction, and opinion mining.

Shaun is Lecturer in Quantitative Political Science at the University of Edinburgh, an External Fellow at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES) at the University of Mannheim and is the Topic Coding Coordinator for the Comparative Agendas Project responsible for creating a common Master Codebook across projects. Shaun's research interests include agenda-setting, public policy, interest groups, public opinion, time series analysis and measurement.

Zoltan is Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Political Science, University of Oslo. Zoltan's research focuses on political behavior at voter and elite level, with special interest in political opinion formation, contextual differences, and varied uses of social media data for the study of politics.

For further information about the conference, please contact us at poltext2016@gmail.com or visit our website www.poltext2016.net.



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