

ACL Special Interest Group on Endangered Languages – SIGEL

← Motivation

- “New” Special Interest Group (SIG) within Association of Computational Linguistics (ACL)
 - accepted as SIG in the October 2019 (after ComputEL-3)
- Goals
 - to formalize and recognize already existing community of researchers
 - computational linguists
 - field/documentary linguists, and
 - importantly, linguistic community members
 - community linguists
 - language instructors
 - language activists
 - narrow the gap between these groups and build a network among these constituent groups
 - to support the revitalization and sustainability of Endangered Languages

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Endangered vs. Less-resourced vs. Indigenous vs. Minority languages

- Endangered languages
 - often also any combination of
 - Less-Resourced
 - Indigenous, and/or
 - Minority languages
 - but the opposite is not always the case
 - Less-Resourced and Minority languages are not necessarily Endangered
 - the needs of and challenges facing Northern Haida are quite different from Portuguese
 - the engagement/involvement of the language community is crucial
- broad interpretation of the linguistic scope of ACL-SIGEL
 - in particular when the challenges facing all these languages are the same

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- How to join?
 - <https://acl-sigel.github.io/members.html>
 - Email: sigel@googlegroups.com



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Founding Officers 2019-2020:

Interim President: Antti Arppe, University of Alberta

Interim Secretary: Mans Hulden, University of Colorado

Founding Members-At-Large:

Jeff Good, Jordan Lachler, Alexis Palmer, Lane Schwartz, Miikka Silfverberg

Officers 2020-2022:

President: Antti Arppe, University of Alberta

Secretary: Sarah Moeller, University of Colorado

Members-At-Large:

Antonios Anastasopoulos, George Mason University

Hilaria Cruz, University of Kentucky

Jordan Lachler, University of Alberta

Lane Schwartz, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



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Forthcoming activities

- ComputEL series of workshops
 - ComputEL-5 ← to be co-located next at an ACL cycle conference? (2022)
 - ComputEL-6 ← to be co-located at ICLDC8? (2023)
- “Database” of experts/communities with experience
 - computational linguists with experience on some particular language technology, and time to work with new languages?
 - language communities with experience in the development and use of language technology for various tasks → sharing their knowledge about what worked and what didn't?
- Shared task?
 - with computational/documentary linguist/community collaboration at its core
 - matching together computational linguists (← expert database) with documentary linguists / communities with a need
 - rather than competition, reports on how the collaboration worked well, or less so?

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