

Foreword

Catalog '04, hosted by the Department of Translation and Philology at Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, July 19-21, 2004, is the eighth in the SEMDIAL series of workshops. SEMDIAL Workshops bring together researchers working on the semantics and pragmatics of dialogue in fields such as artificial intelligence, formal semantics and pragmatics, computational linguistics, philosophy, and psychology. The series was founded by Gerhard Jäger and Anton Benz, who were students at the CIS, University of Munich, at the time of the first meeting, *MunDial* 1997. *MunDial* 1997 was followed by *Twendial* 1998 (Enschede, The Netherlands), *Amstelogue* 1999 (Amsterdam, The Netherlands), *Götaglog* 2000 (Gothenburg, Sweden), *Bi-Dialog* 2001 (Bielefeld, Germany), *Edilog* 2002 (Edinburgh, Scotland), and *DiaBruck* 2003 (Saarbrücken, Germany).

One of the toughest tasks for the organizers of a SEMDIAL workshop is choosing a name for the event. Following a by now time-honored tradition, one has to toy around with the name **dialog** and the name of the city or area that hosts the workshop. Fortunately, however, this year someone did the thinking for us. After a few unsuccessful tosses with *Barnalog*, *Dial-a-barn*, and *Dialona*, Massimo Poesio came up with the splendid *Catalog*, an obvious yet camouflaged blend of *Catalonia*, host country, and *dialog*. Hence, **Catalog '04**. Thanks, Massimo.

Catalog '04 received 39 submissions. Each was reviewed by at least two peers. Nineteen papers were accepted as regular contributions and a further 13 were accepted as poster presentations, ten of which will be present at Catalog '04. The 19 regular contributions and 2-page abstracts for the 10 poster presentations appear in these proceedings, along with abstracts for the four Catalog '04 keynote speakers: Robin Cooper (Göteborgs Universitet), Massimo Poesio (University of Essex), Alexander Rudnicky (Carnegie Mellon University), and Michael Tanenhaus (University of Rochester). We are extremely grateful to the keynote speakers for accepting the Catalog '04 invitation. Overall, thanks to all speakers and poster presenters, Catalog '04 succeeds in providing a good overview of the state of the art in dialog research from which we hope new powerful ideas and avenues of research evolve.

Jonathan Ginzburg (King's College, London) acted as chair of the Program Committee for Catalog '04 and oversaw the processes having to do with calls for papers, paper submission and paper reviewing. His role was truly vital through the early stages of the Catalog '04 preparations. The Program Committee included Anton Benz (Syddansk Universitet), Johan Bos (University of Edinburgh), Justine Cassell (Northwestern University), Lawrence Cavedon (CSLI, Stanford), Robin Cooper (Göteborgs Universitet), Paul Dekker (University of Amsterdam), Claire Gardent (CNRS, Loria), Simon Garrod (University of Glasgow), Jonathan Ginzburg (King's College, London, Chair), Pat Healey (Queen Mary, University of London), Ivana Kruijff-Korbayová (Universität des Saarlandes), Staffan Larsson (Göteborgs Universitet), Colin Matheson (University of Edinburgh), David Milward (Linguamatics, Cambridge), Massimo Poesio (University of Essex), Hannes Rieser (Universität Bielefeld), and David Traum (University of Southern California). Many thanks to all of them for an excellent job.

Putting together an event like Catalog '04 entails worrying about lots of little details you never imagined you would have to worry about some day. Local committee members Stefan Bott, Judith Domingo, Laia Mayol, Stella Puig-Waldmüller, and Ana Ruggia have helped out with these. Also, Susi Bolós, head secretary of the Department of Translation and Philology, has provided a great deal of help in sorting out all kinds of logistic issues. Catalog '04 has been made possible by financial support from the Ministry of Universities of the Catalan Government (2004 ARCS1 00056), the Ministry of Education of the Spanish Government, and the Department of Translation and Philology and the School of Translation and Interpreting at Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

Enric Vallduví
Catalog '04 Local Committee chair

Programme committee and referees

Jonathan Ginzburg (chair)	[King's College, London]
Anton Benz	[Syddansk Universitet]
Johan Bos	[University of Edinburgh]
Justine Cassell	[Northwestern University]
Lawrence Cavedon	[CSLI, Stanford]
Robin Cooper	[Göteborgs Universitet]
Paul Dekker	[Universiteit van Amsterdam]
Claire Gardent	[CNRS, Loria]
Simon Garrod	[University of Glasgow]
Pat Healey	[Queen Mary, University of London]
Ivana Kruijff-Korbayová	[Universität des Saarlandes]
Staffan Larsson	[Göteborgs Universitet]
Colin Matheson	[University of Edinburgh]
David Milward	[Linguamatics, Cambridge]
Massimo Poesio	[University of Essex]
Hannes Rieser	[Universität Bielefeld]
David Traum	[University of Southern California]

Invited Speakers

Robin Cooper	[Göteborgs Universitet]
Massimo Poesio	[University of Essex]
Alex Rudnicky	[Carnegie Mellon University]
Michael Tanenhaus	[University of Rochester]

Local Committee [Universitat Pompeu Fabra]

Enric Vallduví (chair)
Stefan Bott
Judith Domingo
Laia Mayol
Stella Puig-Waldmüller
Ana Ruggia

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