Reading Minds

Artificial Intelligence, Neural Networks and the Reading Human

SLSA 2022, Purdue University

Call for Papers and Artworks

The Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts invites submissions for its 35th annual meeting which will take place October 6-9, 2022 at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. The Center for NeuroHumanities in the School of Languages and Cultures and co-sponsors will host SLSA2022 as an on-site conference (subject to future guidelines relating to COVID-19). For Purdue University's response to the pandemic, please refer to https://protect.purdue.edu for updates.

The conference theme is "Reading Minds: Artificial Intelligence, Neural Networks, and the Reading Human."

Engaging scholars of literature, science and the arts in questions pertaining to the nature of reading inevitably suggests new lines of enquiry which extend beyond disciplinary fields, and reach to apprehend the "grand challenges" of the twenty-first century. Historically, the definition of reading has been narrowly defined as a human mind deciphering text, as written traditions of communication replaced the oral. With machine learning, natural language processing, and imaging, both the understanding of "reading" and "mind" are in flux. Over the course of the pandemic, the pivot to remote work and social distancing have led to an augmented virtual experience with the attendant consequences of new patterns of reading and an accumulation of data from that engagement.

We seek papers, panels, workshops, and creative work that might address the following concerns, broadly defined:

- Artifacts of reading: print and digital

- The embodied mind problematized from the perspective of AI

- Natural language processing, especially machine translation and natural language generation

- Neuro networks: human, animal and other organisms

- Data mining and data mine analysis

- Imaging, reading images, AI-assisted imaging and / or image reconstruction

- Cognitive processes of reading, and how they relate to the construction of meaning

- Theory of Mind in relation to reading, data mining and algorithms

- Empathy, and its simulation, through cognitive and affective lenses

- Creativity and computer-assisted processing and generation of art and literature

- Critical discourse in academia in the contexts of increasingly sophisticated algorithmic reading and the digital humanities, including future directions and caveats

Papers/panels on all SLSA-related topics are also welcome.

We invite proposals for:

- Individual papers, posters and pre-organized panels
- Workshops, roundtables, arts lounges, and social networking events
- Creative work

The submission deadline for abstracts is **April 22, 2022**. Please submit all abstracts and proposals for panels, etc to the submission portal through EasyChair:

https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=slsa2022

Participants in SLSA 2022 must be current members of SLSA. For membership inscription, please refer to the society's website: https://www.litsciarts.org.

For updates and further information, as it becomes available, please see the conference website: https://litsciarts.org/slsa2022/. Please address enquiries to slsa@purdue.edu.

Conference attendees will be able to book accommodation at the newly renovated on-campus Union Club Hotel, where a block of rooms is reserved: https://www.purdueunionclubhotel.com. In addition, there are a number of other options for accommodation, both in West Lafayette and Lafayette. For conference participants arriving by air, the closest airport is IND (Indianapolis). Information about accommodation and travel will be posted to the conference website in the coming weeks.