

Preface

For the first time in its over 20-year history, the annual “Computational Linguistics in the Netherlands” meeting took place in the city of Ghent. CLIN-21 was held at the University College Ghent on February 11, 2011 and was hosted by the Language and Translation Technology Team. The conference attracted 118 participants, most of them coming from Dutch and Flemish academic institutions, but also from companies active in the domain of computational linguistics. The program featured 55 talks, organized in 5 parallel sessions and 18 posters on different aspects of computational linguistics. We were happy to have Massimo Poesio from the University of Essex as our invited speaker at the meeting. His talk, entitled “Rethinking anaphora”, introduced us into the use of crowdsourcing in anaphora resolution research. At CLIN-21, the Computational Linguistics in the Netherlands Journal (CLIN Journal) was launched as an open access international forum for the electronic publication of high-quality scholarly articles in all areas of computational linguistics, language and speech technology.

A call for papers to be included in the first issue of the online CLIN journal was issued after the meeting, and we selected the seven most suited papers to be included in the CLIN journal. We would like to thank the members of the editorial board, the additional expert reviewers as well as the authors for their hard work.

Gratefully acknowledged are also the contributions of our sponsors: the STEVIN programme of the Dutch Language Union (NTU, the FWO research network “Computational Linguistics in Flanders”, Textkernel, Gridline and the association research group “Language Technology and Computational Intelligence”). Finally we would like to extend our gratitude to all co-organizers, participants, presenters, and everyone else that contributed to a successful CLIN meeting.

Ghent, 30 November 2011

Els Lefever
Véronique Hoste