

Preface

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The 14th special issue of the Computational Linguistics in the Netherlands (CLIN) Journal contains a selection of papers that were presented at the 34th edition of the annual CLIN conference (CLIN34). The CLIN conference takes place on a yearly basis and invites researchers working on a wide range of topics related to computational linguistics to share and present their work. This year's edition took place on 30th August 2024 in the Humanities campus, Lipsius building in Leiden.¹

In total, 236 participants from 35 different institutions registered for CLIN34. In total, 130 abstracts were received, of which 118 were accepted. 31 of the accepted abstracts were presented during morning and afternoon presentation sessions. The remaining submissions were accepted as posters and presented during the two poster sessions. The topics covered reflect the current global trends in computational linguistics and NLP, many related to Large Language Models. Dutch and English were the most commonly studied languages. Students (bachelor, master, and PhD) made up the majority of presenters.

We were happy to have two keynote speeches: (i) Diana Maynard from University of Sheffield who gave a talk on Online violence: an escalating maelstrom of Hatred, Misogyny, Disinformation, Bias, and Coordination, giving an overview of a multidisciplinary approach to collect, analyse, monitor and report on online violence against public figures around the world, including the latest “alert and response” dashboard to monitor and warn of potential escalation to offline harm; and (ii) Dominique Blok and Erik de Graaf from TNO, who presented GPT-NL, a publicly funded initiative dedicated to developing a sovereign, transparent, and ethically driven Dutch Large Language Model (LLM).

CLIN34 also hosted the collocated workshop Sign Language in the Netherlands (SLIN) on 29th August 2025. At SLIN recent topics related to research on signed languages were presented, focusing on Sign Language of the Netherlands (Nederlandse Gebarentaal, NGT) and Flemish Sign Language (Vlaamse Gebarentaal, VGT), with three presentation sessions and one panel discussion.

After the conference, we received 30 submissions to the current volume of CLIN journal, out of which 24 were accepted for publication after reviewing. The accepted papers highlight the continuous growth and diversification of research in computational linguistics, with strong representation in areas such as LLMs, language model evaluation, and Dutch NLP. Several papers explore multilingual and low-resource language processing, historical and domain-specific language modelling, and educational applications. Topics range from dialectology, simplification, and metaphor detection to OCR integration, speech assessment, and lexical semantic change, reflecting a mix of theoretical insights, methodological innovation, and applied research.

To conclude, we would like to thank everyone who has played a role in making CLIN34 successful. Which first and foremost are all presenters, authors and participants. We also thank

1. <https://clin34.leidenuniv.nl/>

our student volunteers for their assistance during the conference and our sponsors for their generous support: Instituut voor de Nederlandse Taal (INT), Taalunie, Nederlandse Organisatie voor toegepast-natuurwetenschappelijk onderzoek (TNO), Zeta Alpha, Nederlandse Organisatie voor Taal- en Spraaktechnologie (NOTaS) and Textkernel. Further, we would like to thank the CLIN journal editorial board and the external reviewers for their insightful comments and thorough reviewing.

We wish you an interesting reading experience, and look forward to seeing you again at the 35th edition of CLIN, organized by KU Leuven on the 12th of September 2025.