

# YOUNG RESEARCHERS' ROUNDTABLE

## on Spoken Dialog Systems



September  
13-14,  
2009

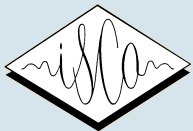
Co-located with  
INTERSPEECH (6-10)  
& SIGDIAL (11-12)

[www.yrrsds.org](http://www.yrrsds.org)

[yrr09-organizers@googlegroups.com](mailto:yrr09-organizers@googlegroups.com)

### Endorsements

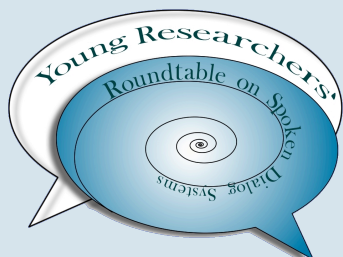
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### Sponsors



Microsoft  
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### OVERVIEW & GOALS

The Young Researchers' Roundtable on Spoken Dialog Systems (YRRSDS) is an annual workshop designed for post-graduate students, post-docs and junior researchers working in research related to spoken dialogue systems in both academia and industry. The roundtable provides an open forum where participants can discuss their research interests, current work and future plans.

The workshop has three main goals:

- offer an interdisciplinary forum for creative thinking about current issues in spoken dialogue systems research
- provide young researchers with career advice from senior researchers and professionals from both academic and industrial backgrounds
- develop a stronger international network of young researchers working in the field.

**(Important note!):** There is no actual age restriction to participating in the workshop; the word 'young' is meant to indicate that it is targeted towards researchers who are at a relatively early stage in their career.)

### TOPICS & SESSIONS

Potential roundtable discussion topics include: best practices for conducting and evaluating user studies, the prosody of conversation, statistical learning methods, conversational agents and virtual characters, and user modelling.

YRRSDS'09 will feature:

- a senior researcher panel (both academia and industry)
- a demo and poster session
- a special session on frameworks and grand challenges for dialogue system evaluation
- a special session on EU projects.

### WORKSHOP LOCATION

The 2009 YRRSDS will be held at Queen Mary University of London, one of the UK's leading research-focused higher education institutions. Queen Mary's Mile End campus began life in 1887 as the People's Palace, a philanthropic endeavour to provide east Londoners with education and social activities, and is located in the heart of London's vibrant East End.

### STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS

ISCA will consider applications for a limited number of travel grants. Applications should be sent directly to [grants@isca-speech.org](mailto:grants@isca-speech.org), details of the application process and forms are available from <http://www.isca-speech.org/grants.html>.

We are also negotiating with other supporters the possibility of offering a limited number of travel grants to students.

### SUBMISSION PROCESS

Participants will be asked to submit a **2-page position paper** based on a template provided by the organising committee. In their papers, authors will include a short biographical sketch, a brief statement of research interests, a description of their research work, and a short discussion of what they believe to be the most significant and interesting issues in spoken dialogue systems today and in the near future. Participants will also provide three suggestions for discussion topics. Workshop attendance will be **limited to 50 participants**. Submissions will be accepted on a **first-come-first-served** basis. Submissions will be collated and made available to participants. We also plan to publish the position papers and presentations from the workshop on the web, subject to any sponsor or publisher constraints.

### ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- ▷ David Díaz Pardo, Polytechnic U Madrid, Spain
- ▷ Milica Gašić, Cambridge U, UK
- ▷ François Mairesse, Cambridge U, UK
- ▷ Matthew Marge, CMU, USA
- ▷ Joana Paulo Parda, IST Tech U Lisbon / L<sup>2</sup>F INESC-ID, Portugal
- ▷ Ricardo Ribeiro, ISCTE / L<sup>2</sup>F INESC-ID, Portugal

### LOCAL ORGANISATION

- ▷ Arash Eshghi
- ▷ Christine Howes
- ▷ Gregory Mills

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- ▷ Hua Ai, U Pittsburgh, USA
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- ▷ Carlos Gómez Gallo, U Rochester, USA
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- ▷ David Martins de Matos, Tech U Lisbon / L<sup>2</sup>F, INESC-ID, Portugal
- ▷ João Paulo Neto, Tech U Lisbon / Voice Interaction, Portugal
- ▷ Tim Paek, Microsoft, USA
- ▷ Antoine Raux, Honda, USA
- ▷ Robert Ross, U Bremen, Germany
- ▷ Alexander Rudnicky, CMU, USA
- ▷ Mary Swift, U Rochester, USA
- ▷ Isabel Trancoso, Tech U Lisbon / L<sup>2</sup>F, INESC-ID, Portugal
- ▷ Tim Weale, Ohio State U, USA
- ▷ Jason Williams, AT&T, USA
- ▷ Sabrina Wilske, Saarland U, Germany
- ▷ Andi Winterboer, Univ van Amsterdam, Netherlands
- ▷ Craig Wootton, U Ulster, Belfast, Northern Ireland
- ▷ Steve Young, U Cambridge, UK

### IMPORTANT DATES

Submissions will be accepted on a rolling basis starting May 1st, 2009, until the maximum number of participants for the workshop (50) is reached, or until the submission deadline is reached.

Submissions open:	May 15
Submissions <b>deadline</b> :	June 30
Final notification:	July 31
Registration begins:	TBD
Registration <b>deadline</b> :	TBD
Interspeech:	Sep 6-10
SIGDial:	Sep 11-12
<b>Workshop YRR</b> :	Sep 13-14