Last Call for Participation

Eleventh International Conference on *Text*, *Speech* and *Dialogue*

TSD 2008

September 8–12, 2008, Brno, Czech Republic

TSD 2008 is organized by the Faculty of Informatics, Masaryk University, Brno, and the Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of West Bohemia, Pilsen. The conference is supported by International Speech Communication Association.

Conference Program: The detailed conference program with links to presentation abstracts is now available on the conference web page `http://www.tsdconference.org/tsd2008/tsd_prog.html`.

The conference fee covers also a Welcome dinner on Tuesday, a night guided tour of Brno and the half day conference trip on Thursday to the Castle of Pernštejn, the Černá Hora Moravian brewery with the conference dinner, and a night tour to the Chateau of Rájec nad Svitavou.

Keynote Speakers:

The conference will welcome four keynote speakers – **Jerry Hobbs**, ISI USC, USA: *Deep Lexical Semantics*, **Frederick Jelinek**, USA: *Toward the Ultimate ASR Language Model*, **Elizabeth Shriberg**, SRI, USA: *Practical Prosody: Modeling Language Beyond the Words*, and **Graeme Hirst**, University of Toronto, Canada: *The Future of Text-Meaning in Computational Linguistics*.

Venue: Hotel AVANTI, Brno, Czech Republic

Format of the Conference: The conference program will include oral presentations and poster/demonstration sessions with sufficient time for discussions of the issues raised. Papers will be presented in plenary or topic oriented sessions.

Social events including a trip in the vicinity of Brno will allow for additional informal interactions.

TSD series evolved as a prime forum for interaction between researchers in both spoken and written language processing from the former East Block countries and their Western colleagues. Proceedings of TSD form a book published by Springer-Verlag in their Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence (LNAI) series (as Volume 5246 this year).

Topics: Topics of the TSD 2008 conference will include (but are not limited to): *text corpora and tagging; transcription problems in spoken corpora; sense disambiguation; links between text and speech oriented systems; parsing issues; parsing problems in spoken texts; multi-lingual issues; multi-lingual dialogue systems; information retrieval and information extraction; text/topic summarization; machine translation; semantic networks and ontologies; semantic web; speech modeling; speech segmentation; speech recognition; search in speech for IR and IE; text-to-speech synthesis; dialogue systems; development of dialogue strategies; prosody in dialogues; emotions and personality modeling; user modeling; knowledge representation in relation to dialogue systems; assistive technologies based on speech and dialogue; applied systems and software; facial animation; visual speech synthesis.* Papers on processing languages other than English are strongly encouraged.

Program Committee: *Frederick Jelinek, USA (general chair); Hynek Hermansky, Switzerland (executive chair); Eneko Agirre, Spain; Geneviève Baudoin, France; Jan Černocký, Czech Rep; Attila Ferencz, Romania; Alexander Gelbukh, Mexico; Louise Guthrie, GB; Jan Hajič, Czech Rep; Eva Hajičová, Czech Rep; Patrick Hanks, Czech Rep; Ludwig Hitzenberger, Germany; Jaroslava Hlaváčová, Czech Rep; Aleš Horák, Czech Rep; Eduard Hovy, USA; Ivan Kopeček, Czech Rep; Steven Krauwer, The Netherlands; Siegfried Kunzmann, Germany; Natalija Loukachevitch, Russia; Václav Matoušek, Czech Rep; Hermann Ney, Germany; Elmar Nöth, Germany; Karel Oliva, Czech Rep; Karel Pala, Czech Rep; Nikola Pavesić, Slovenia; Vladimír Petkevič, Czech Rep; Fabio Pianesi, Italy; Josef Psutka, Czech Rep; James Pustejovsky, USA; Leon Rothkrantz, The Netherlands; E.G. Schukat-Talamazzini, Germany; Pavel Skrelin, Russia; Pavel Smrž, Czech Rep; Marko Tadic, Croatia; Tamas Varadi, Hungary; Zygmunt Vetulani, Poland; Taras Vintsiuk, Ukraine; Yorick Wilks, GB; Victor Zakharov, Russia.*

Important Dates:

September 8–12, 2008 .... Conference date

Official Language of the conference is English.

Conference Fees: The conference fee depends on the date of payment and on your status. It includes one copy of the printed Springer LNCS proceedings, refreshments, social events and organizing costs. The fee does not include accommodation.

	full	**student**
On-site payment:	CZK 12,000	CZK 10,000

All costs are in Czech Crowns (Czech Koruna, CZK), see e.g. `http://www.xe.com/ucc/` for the current exchange rate.

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Location: Brno is the second largest city in the Czech Republic with a population of almost 400,000. The city is the country's judiciary and trade-fair center. Brno is the capital of Moravia, which is in the south-east part of the Czech Republic. Brno had been a Royal City since 1347 and with its six universities it forms also a cultural center of the region.

Brno can be reached easily by direct flights from London, Moscow, Barcelona and Prague and by trains or buses from Prague (200 km) or Vienna (130 km).

For the participants with some extra time, some nearby places may also be of interest. Local ones include: Brno Castle now called Špilberk, Veveří Castle, the Old and New City Halls, the Augustine Monastery with St. Thomas Church and crypt of Moravian Margraves, Church of St. James, Cathedral of St. Peter & Paul, Cartesian Monastery in Královo Pole, the famous Villa Tugendhat designed by Mies van der Rohe along with other important buildings of between-war Czech architecture.

For those willing to venture out of Brno, Moravian Karst with Macocha Chasm and Punkva caves, battlefield of Battle of three emperors (Napoleon, Russian Alexander and Austrian Franz – Battle by Austerlitz), Chateau of Slavkov (Austerlitz), Pernštejn Castle, Buchlov Castle, Lednice Chateau, Buchlovice Chateau, Letovice Chateau, Mikulov with one of the largest Jewish cemeteries in Central Europe, Telč – a town on the UNESCO heritage list, and many others are all within easy reach.