
National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI Galway), Galway, Ireland, Monday 9th–Wednesday 11th August, 1999

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1. Introduction

“Occurring during the solar eclipse of 1999,” the Eighth International Workshop on the Cognitive Science of Natural Language Processing (CSNLP-8) has been a success. The delegates enjoyed themselves, and particularly not only the academic content but also the surplus of social events, and expressed their congratulations on the programme and organisation. CSNLP attracted for the first time a large number of delegates and papers from abroad including many from Britain, Europe, the USA and Asia.

CSNLP-8 was hosted by the Information Technology (IT) Centre at NUI Galway, Ireland, The Cognitive Science Society Of Ireland (CSSI), and the Artificial Intelligence Association of Ireland (AI)2, in cooperation with IntelliMedia 2000+, Aalborg University, Denmark. It was run just before “MIND-IV: Two Sciences of Mind”, The Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society of Ireland (CSSI), at Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland (August 15th–18th).

CSNLP-8 was advertised internationally to mailgroups and on usenet as well as by placing information at the Information Technology (IT) Centre, NUI Galway on WWW Paul Mc Kevitt was Programme chair for CSNLP-8 with Conn Mulvihill and Micheal Colhoun as Local Organisation Chairs and Seán Ó Nualláín is the General Chair for CSNLP. More details on the Workshop are available on http://www.it.ucg.ie/csnlp8.
2. Venue

Galway, Ireland with a population of around 80,000 is the Capital of the West of Ireland and is situated on the Northeastern edge of Galway Bay with Conmemara to the West and agricultural regions to the East and South. It is the third largest city in the Republic of Ireland after Dublin and Cork. Galway has experienced phenomenal growth in recent years and has a lively vibrant City Centre with traditional medieval streets, extensive shopping and business facilities, a youthful population and its living culture of music, theatre and language makes it for many the Cultural Capital of Ireland. With relevance to the organisation of this meeting Galway is a twin-city of Aalborg, Denmark.

We find the following quote on Galway from http://www.galway.local.ie: “CITY OF THE TRIBES “To hell or to Connaught” ordered Cromwell as the dispossessed flocked west in their droves. The land may still be poor but no-one these days would equate Connaught with hell. As anyone who ever watched the sun go down on the famously beautiful Galway bay will tell you, it’s definitely more on the heavenly end of the spectrum. A friendly sprawling city, Galway has all the amenities of a much larger place yet maintains its laid-back vibe. As a University town, it is incredibly youthful, culturally vibrant and undeniably cosmopolitan. You can lose your shirt at the races or your inhibitions at the oyster festival. A light mist will enhance your complexion as you cycle over the salmon weir, along by the cathedral. Bring your umbrella and prepare to have lots of fun . . .” More details about Galway are available on “The complete guide to Galway” (http://www.galway.net), “Local Ireland”, Galway (http://www.galway.local.ie), “Galway On-line” (http://www.galwayonline.ie), and “Galway Bay FM” (http://gbfm.galway.net/gbfmnew/) (radio).

The Information Technology (IT) Centre at NUI, Galway has a research focus on Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence with research on topics such as Creativity, Natural Language Processing, Robotics and Embedded Systems, Information Filtering and Retrieval, Image processing and Human Computer Interaction. The workshop was held in the lecture room (oratory) of the St. Anthony’s College building (see Figure 1), used as a seminary in previous years and appropriate for this meeting which had numerous religious leanings.

3. The Programme

The Programme Committee for CSNLP-8 consisted of around eighty members from Ireland and abroad including a large number of internationally renowned researchers. The programme contained a balanced set of papers