



## Distinguished Lecture Series

# Where Natural Language Processing Meets Societal Needs



Monday, October 08, 2018 10:00am

Auditorium 106,

Institute of Information Science, Academia Sinica

## Prof. Kathleen McKeown

### Abstract

The large amount of language available online today makes it possible to think about how to use natural language processing to help address needs faced by society. In this talk, I will describe research in our group on summarization and sentiment analysis that addresses several different challenges. We have developed approaches that can be used to help people live and work in today's global world, providing access to information only available in low resource languages, approaches to help determine where problems lie following a disaster, and approaches to identify when the social media posts of gang-involved youth in Chicago express either aggression or loss.

### Biography

Kathleen R. McKeown is the Henry and Gertrude Rothschild Professor of Computer Science at Columbia University and the Founding Director of the Data Science Institute. She served as Director from 2012 to 2017. In earlier years, she served as Department Chair from 1998-2003 and as Vice Dean for Research for the School of Engineering and Applied Science for two years. A leading scholar and researcher in the field of natural language processing, McKeown focuses her research on big data; her interests include text summarization, question answering, natural language generation, and multilingual applications. She has received numerous honors and awards, including AAI Fellow, a Founding Fellow of the Association for Computational Linguistics and an ACM Fellow. Early on she received the National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator Award, and a National Science Foundation Faculty Award for Women. In 2010, she won both the Columbia Great Teacher Award—an honor bestowed by the students—and the Anita Borg Woman of Vision Award for Innovation.

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