

DiLCo Lecture Series 2024 (online)

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Social Perceptions of Language Variation: Comparing Humans and LLMs

There are often various ways to express the same thing. Think of, for example, the different words we can use for a given concept, or the many creative spellings in social media. Language variation is often seen as a challenge for developing robust NLP models. However, language variation is also an opportunity: it can help us develop models that are more sensitive to social context. In this talk, I will present current research into the associations that Large Language Models form regarding spelling variations and how these associations align with human perceptions.



Dong Nguyen is an assistant professor at the Department of Information and Computing Sciences at Utrecht University. At Utrecht University, she is heading the Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Society Lab. She is interested in the intersection between NLP and sociolinguistics, exploring how NLP can be used to support sociolinguistic research and how sociolinguistics can inform the development of better NLP models.

The lectures can be attended free of charge. Registration is required.

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