

# Report on the Activities of the SIGLEX-MWE Section in 2019

*Agata Savary, Francis Bond, Stella Markantonatou, Jelena Mitrović, Petya Osenova, Carla Parra Escartín, Ashwini Vaidya*

*20 January 2020*

According to the constitution of the [SIGLEX-MWE section](#), the Standing Committee of the Section should report yearly on the Section's activities to its members. This document is the report of the Section's activities in 2019.

## Standing Committee

Since August 2018, the SIGLEX-MWE Section has its [Standing Committee](#), consisting of one elected and four nominated officers. According to the [Constitution](#), the duration of the term of an SC nominated officer is 2 years, and term periods for different SC nominated officers should alternate, so as to ensure a transfer of competences within the SC. In August 2019, a call for new SC candidates was announced, and some potential candidates were also approached personally by the Section's representative. As a result, 9 expressions of interest were submitted (from Bulgaria, Canada, France, Germany, India, Romania, Serbia, Spain and the United Kingdom). Out of this list, the SIGLEX Board selected 2 new nominated officers, on the basis of various balance factors including gender, scientific excellence, diversity and multilingualism. The two new Officers nominated for the mandate of 2019-2021 are Ashwini Vaidya (Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India) and Petya Osenova (Sofia University and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria). The two outgoing Officers (having served in 2016-2018) are Johanna Monti ("L'Orientale" University of Naples, Italy) and Carlos Ramisch (Aix-Marseille University, France).

## Membership

The Section faces some difficulties in maintaining a precise list of its members. According to the Constitution, the SIGLEX-MWE members are those who have registered to SIGLEX with the "MWE" status. This [list](#) now contains 280 registered identities, some of which are obsolete or duplicated. On the other hand, the Section maintains a mailing list for its announcements ([multiword-expressions@lists.sourceforge.net](mailto:multiword-expressions@lists.sourceforge.net)) whose members' list does not fully overlap with the SIGLEX-MWE members. Additionally, membership management on this list is no longer possible. Since 10 June 2016, for the reasons of privacy protection, Sourceforge no longer allows the list administrators to view or change the names and addresses of their members.

Despite these obstacles, some cleaning-up actions were undertaken in spring 2018 to homogenise the SIGLEX-MWE and the [multiword-expressions@lists.sourceforge.net](mailto:multiword-expressions@lists.sourceforge.net) membership. A more reliable solution should be proposed in the years to come.

## MWE-WN 2019 workshop

The Section joined forces with the Global Wordnet Association ([GWA](#)) to organise a joint event, the Joint Workshop on Multiword Expressions and WordNet ([MWE-WN 2019](#)). It was co-located with the ACL 2019 conference in Florence (Italy) on August 2nd, 2019, and was the 15th edition of the yearly Workshop on Multiword Expressions ([MWE](#)).

- Participation: 57 registered participants
- 1 invited talks:
  - "When the whole is greater than the sum of its parts: Multiword expressions and idiomaticity" by Aline Villavicencio for the University of Essex (UK) and the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil).
- Papers: 37 papers (12 long and 8 short) were submitted to the research track, 35 and 13 concerned MWEs and WordNet, respectively; 20 papers were selected (12 long and 8 short); 6 of them were presented orally and 14 as posters. The overall selectivity rate was 54%. A dissemination track was also announced (where previously published work could be submitted) but it received no submission.
- Proceedings: published in the [ACL Anthology](#).
- Community discussion (see [slides](#)): it included feedback from this joint event, MWE-related announcements, announcements about the SIGLEX-MWE Steering Committee recruitment (see above), plans for future shared task editions, news from the UD-PARSEME collaboration, and proposals for seeking synergies with other communities

## MWE-LEX 2020 workshop proposal

In order to achieve new synergies with related initiatives, the Section made contact with [ELEXIS](#), a European Lexicographic Infrastructure. A joint workshop proposal, entitled "Joint Workshop on Multiword Expressions and Electronic Lexicons ([MWE-LEX 2020](#))", was submitted to ACL/COLING/EMNLP/AACL-IJCNLP 2020 and selected to be co-located with [COLING 2020](#) in Barcelona, Spain on September 14, 2020. The nomination of the workshop organisation and PC chairs was handled jointly by the SIGLEX-MWE Standing Committee and ELEXIS leaders. The Program Committee gathers experts from both communities. The workshop features, in particular, edition 1.2 of the [PARSEME shared task](#) on semi-supervised identification of verbal multiword expressions.