

## Barbara Plank

I am honored to run for VP-Elect in 2023. Here is my statement (fyi limited to 400 words).

### Statement

With the recent success of Large Language Models (LLMs), paired with the growth of ACL, our community is contributing to research impact at an unprecedented rate and scale, which impacts society as directly and widely as ever before. While exciting and opening many opportunities, there are also challenges. If elected, I would like to suggest the ACL to focus on (listed in no particular order):

1. **Increasing outreach to the public.** As a community our outputs are becoming an integral part of society. Similarly, other research disciplines are looking at our field with a great interest and want to adopt our technology. However, some may be less technologically versed than others. I believe there is a big opportunity for us here in making the results of our community more visible to outside the community (general public and government agencies worldwide), to promote knowledge sharing and help calibrate trust in technology. For this, incentive structures to present research to a broad audience need to be built collectively.
2. **Prioritizing diversity and transparency.** Our community has taken measures to increase diversity both in terms of researcher involvement (e.g. establishment of Widening NLP, diversity and inclusion chairs at conferences, birds-of-a-feather initiatives) and research diversity (e.g. encourage reviewers to put more weight on the non-main-stream, creative or work like interdisciplinary studies, resource creation, efficient NLP policy, insightful negative findings). We should continue to support and strengthen these efforts. Besides diversity, transparency is important. What could be improved is communication outside business meetings so that every member is informed (for example on sponsorship budget).
3. **Decisions & ARR.** To reconsider the original idea of ARR, which was (to the best of my knowledge) to reduce the burden of reviewing concentrated on few yearly conference deadlines, to provide regular submission opportunities with decisions (for papers to then be presented at main \*ACL venues, similar to TACL). For this to possibly work, we need i) community support ii) conference organizers well-integrated into ARR to provide decisions.
4. **ACLv (ACL virtual).** I love traveling. While important for social and scientific exchange, I believe that it has become economically and ecologically unsustainable to maximize attendance to on-site conferences. Therefore, I welcome the suggestion to create one big annual virtual-only event (an annual ACLv), if that means we can save costs, include more participants and contribute to saving our planet.

### Bio.

Barbara Plank is Professor (chair) for AI and computational linguistics and co-director of the Center for Information and Language Processing at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) in Munich, Germany. She is part-time Professor at the IT University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Before moving to Munich in 2022, she held academic positions in Denmark, The Netherlands and Italy. Barbara Plank obtained her PhD (2011) in computational linguistics from the University of Groningen. She serves the NLP community regularly, e.g., as PC-chair in workshops and conferences (e.g. DANLP 2010 & AdaptNLP 2021; PEOPLES 2016, 2018, 2020; NoDaLiDa 2019; EurNLP 2019), workshop chair (2019), EMNLP and ACL publicity chair (2015, 2016), ACL publicity director (2019-2022), (Senior) Area chair, as part of the European Chapter of ACL (e.g., EACL advisory board member 2019-2022) and NEALT president (2022-2023).