

**Session**

# Multilingual and Multimodal LLMs for Everyday Knowledge



**When: Nov 06, 2025**



**Time: 16:30 – 18:00**



**Location: Room A209, Suzhou International Expo Centre  
(SuzhouExpo)**

# Why Cultural Inclusivity is Vital in LLMs?

*It ensures that LLMs serve diverse communities equitably, **empowering people to interact with technology** in their own languages and cultural contexts.*

# Cultural Appropriateness

The LLM should reflect Arab culture for:

- Social practices
- Political issues
- Habits & manners
- Food
- Landmarks
- Names
- etc.



# 1st Iteration of BoF @EMNLP 2024

- Native, Local and Cultural Aspects  
(Firoj) 11:25 - 11:35 in-person
- LLMs on Everyday Knowledge in Diverse Cultures and Languages  
(Alice Oh) 10:35 - 10:50 in-person
- CulturalVQA and Benchmarking VLMs for Cultural Understanding  
(Shravan) 10:50 - 11:15 in-person
- Survey of Cultural Awareness in Language Models: Text and Beyond  
(Isabelle/Siddhesh) 11:15 - 11:25 in-person/Online

# 1st Iteration of BoF @EMNLP 2024

and Cultural Aspects

1:35 in-person

Everyday Knowledge in Diverse Cultures and Languages

- 10:50 in-person

Cultural Understanding

Models: Text and Beyond



# 2nd Iteration of BoF @COLING 2025

## Multilingual and Multimodal Cultural Inclusivity in LLMs

Created in January 23, 2025

📅 2025

### Birds-of-a-Feather Session at COLING 2025, January 23, 2025

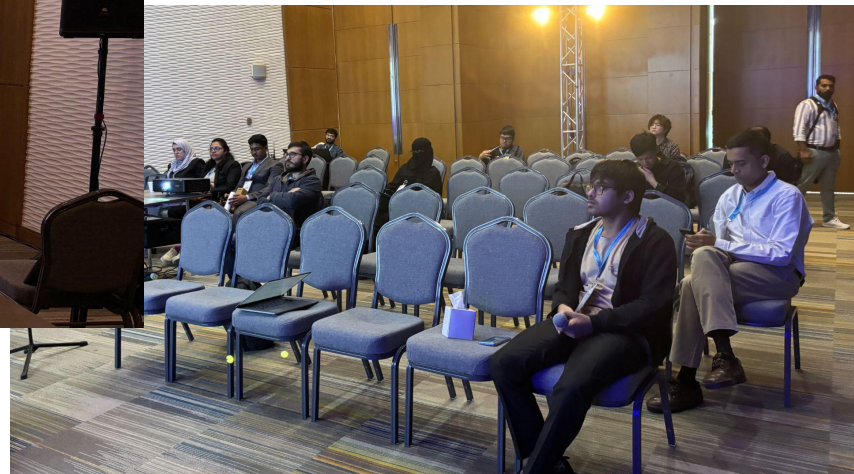
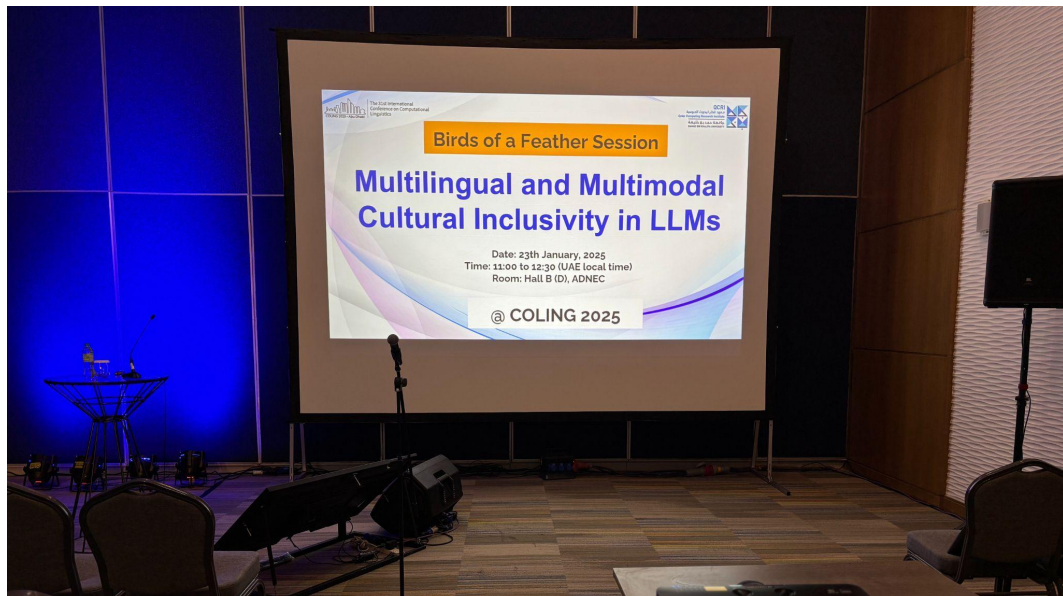
The Birds of a Feather session on "Multilingual and Multimodal Cultural Inclusivity in LLMs" fosters a collaborative discussion on the challenges and opportunities of creating LLMs that inclusively represent diverse languages, cultures, and modalities. As LLMs increasingly influence global communication and understanding, ensuring they respect cultural nuances, underrepresented languages, and multimodal interactions remains critical. This session explores current advancements, challenges in addressing linguistic and cultural biases, and strategies for integrating multilingual and multimodal datasets into LLM training. Participants discuss the ethical, technical, and societal implications of these efforts, sharing ideas and solutions to make AI more inclusive and equitable across diverse linguistic and cultural landscapes.

### Program

Time	Title	Presenter/Speaker
11:00 - 11:10	Opening	Firoj Alam
11:10 - 11:15	Cultural Alignment in Large Language Models: An Explanatory Analysis Based on Hofstede's Cultural Dimensions	Reem I. Masoud
11:15 - 11:30	Shameless Plug for BUCC Talk on Comparable Corpora	Kenneth Church
11:30 - 11:45	As many opinions, so many ways: In AI's path, each culture plays	Sougata Saha
11:45 - 12:00	Collecting Culturally Nuanced Image Data: Case Study with CVQA and SEA-VL	Haryo
11:45 - 12:00	Native, Local and Cultural Knowledge in LLMs	Firoj Alam
12:25 - 12:30	Closing	



# 2nd Iteration of BoF @COLING 2025



# Events



<https://nativqa.gitlab.io/events/>





# Birds of a Feather

## Session

BoF: "Multilingual and Multimodal LLMs for Everyday Knowledge"

Date: 06 Nov 2025

Time: 16:30 - 18:00

Room: A209

Time	Title	Speaker/Presenter	Mode
16:30- 16:40	Opening	<b>Firoj Alam</b> , Qatar Computing Research Institute	In-person
16:40–17:00	A Multilingual and Multimodal Framework for Culturally Grounded Spoken Visual QA	<b>Shammur Absar Chowdhury</b> , Qatar Computing Research Institute	In-person
17:00–17:20	Grounding Multilingual Multimodal LLMs With Cultural Knowledge	<b>Jean de Dieu Nyandwi</b> , Carnegie Mellon University	In-person
17:20–17:40	Pearl: A Multimodal Culturally-Aware Arabic Instruction Dataset	<b>Muhammad Abdul-Mageed</b> , University of British Columbia	In-person
17:40–17:55	Open Discussion		
17:55–18:00	Closing		

# Summary and Wrap-Up

Slack channel

