

## **Abstracts for the SIRL (Social Interaction in the Representation of Language) kickoff workshop**

**Seung Kyung Kim**

### ***The effect of emotional prosody on word recognition***

The focus of work on phonetic variation in spoken language processing has been mostly on the mapping of the variable signal to sounds and words, with much less focus on the role of phonetically cued social/talker variation. In this talk, I present my recent work investigating the effect of phonetically cued emotional information (i.e., emotional prosody) on spoken word recognition. To fully account for complex listener behavior, I argue for two mechanisms in spoken word recognition based on a recent proposal made in Sumner, Kim, King & McGowan (2014) — socioacoustic encoding and social-weighting. By providing the crucial influence of emotional prosody on the word recognition, this work significantly broadens and expands our current knowledge of the spoken word recognition process.

**Tim Mahrt**

### ***Effects of Perceived Gender on Prominence Perception***

Speech production and perception is modulated in part by a variety of social indices as perceived by interlocutors (speech production: Labov 1963, speech perception: Hays and Drager 2010). Gender is one important social index that has been found to influence the perception of segmental speech qualities (Johnson et al 1999) but it is not clear if prosody perception can be similarly influenced. In the present work, we propose to investigate the degree to which prominence perception may be regulated by the perceived gender of the speaker through the use of resynthesized speech and rapid prosody transcription (Cole, Mo & Baek 2010).

**Benjamin Munson**

### ***Improving the Auditory-Perceptual Assessment of Phonological Acquisition***

Studies of phonological acquisition overwhelmingly use phonetic transcription to determine when children acquire sounds, and what types of errors they make when they produce sounds incorrectly. As argued by Kent (1994), Ladd (2011) and Munson, Edwards, Schellinger, Beckman, and Meyer (2010), phonetic transcription is ill-equipped to capture the full range of phonetic detail that is present in any utterance, and is particularly ill-suited to capture the unique characteristics of children's productions. This talk will present the results from a 7+ years of research in our laboratory developing and testing continuous measures of production accuracy in children.

The first part of the talk will discuss the psychometric properties of different rating scales. Here, I will present the results of studies showing that ratings using visual analog scales (VAS) are capture continuous variation within categories for a variety of later-acquired sound contrasts. The second part of the talk will discuss studies showing the extent to which these measures are robust to different manipulations of task difficulty, and how they differ as a function of listener experience.

The final part of the talk will examine the extent to which VAS measures of accuracy and a traditional measure of phoneme-production accuracy correlate with other measures of linguistic ability, using productions taken from a large-scale study of phonological and lexical development in children.

**Noel Nguyen**

***That voice sounds like mine***

I will present an overview of two on-going projects. The first project aims to determine whether it is easier for listeners to recognize words in their own voice compared with another speaker's voice. The goal of the second project is to provide a detailed characterization of phonetic convergence between two speakers in an interactive task at the acoustic, articulatory, and cerebral level.

**Julie Abbou**

***Accommodation and performativity: How to find a convergence between post-structuralist social theories and sociophonetics?***

If “speech convergence phenomena are motivated by an individual’s motivation to be socially accepted or identify with a particular social group (Giles & Coupland, 1991: 71–72, as cited in Babel, 2012)”, it is then needed to question both identity and social categories.

Departing from an ontological understanding of the subjects, post-structuralist social theories and interactional sociology have defined both identity and social categorization as activities, that is, something one recurrently performs (Butler 1990). Since social categories are dynamics necessarily molded by power and domination relationships, and since there is no pre-discursive (or pre-social) identity (Dorlin 2008), our identity performances are continuously negotiated between social norms and individual agency, through interaction.

In addition, social categories and identities are frequently referred to as binary (male or female, black or white, upper or lower class, etc.), while post-structuralist approaches have explored the multiplicity of norms coexisting for a given social category, as well as the multiplicity of the stances one can adopt toward a given norm.

Lastly, the social categories at stake in an interaction are always multiple, constitutive to each other, and intertwined in a non-cumulative way, as the theories of intersectionality (Crenshaw 1991, Bilge 2010) and consubstantiality (Kergoat 2012) have shown.

Therefore, when an individual displays phonetic convergence or divergence, how do we interpret the social horizon s.he is converging or diverging with? Through the example of gender, I will discuss in this talk the possibility of understanding convergence and divergence as normative or subversive processes. I will suggest that convergence is involved in the making of a situated identity rather than being motivated by this identity.

**Oriana Reid-Collins**

***Rhythmic convergence of Indian and American English in interactional speech***

A long tradition of research has attempted to classify languages rhythmically. Though categorical rhythmic classifications have come under scrutiny in recent years, researchers have found rhythm metrics to be a useful way of discriminating between languages and language varieties, especially varieties of English. However, certain varieties have not been extensively studied, notably Indian English, a variety spoken by tens to hundreds of millions of people. In addition, most of the research has concentrated on read materials, neglecting naturalistic speech. Finally, very few studies consider rhythm within an interaction between speakers and conversational effects of rhythm in this context, including possible convergence between speakers. This paper attempts to contribute to research on rhythm by measuring the rhythm of Indian English as compared to American English in a naturalistic situation of contact between two individual speakers within an interaction.

The study yielded strikingly similar results to previous studies on Indian English, showing evidence for syllable-timing in Indian English based on acoustic measurements as compared to the American English data analyzed. In addition, data from different points in the interaction point to rhythmic convergence on the part of the American speaker. This convergence indicates that rhythm is negotiated in the interaction as a conversational device.

**Cristel Portes, Amandine Michelas & James Sneed German**

***Interpreting intonation depends on regional indexing***

Implicitly cued social indices (e.g., gender, nationality) can influence how phonetic information is perceived and categorized at the segmental level (Hay & Drager, 2010, i.a.), though exemplar-based models suggest that such cues may influence processing at other interfaces as well. This study explores whether such cues can dynamically influence the mapping from intonation contours to discourse meaning. In Standard French, a final rise-fall with an  $f_0$  peak on the penultimate syllable may be interpreted either as a confirmation question or as an assertion (Portes, 2004), while in Corsican French the same contour has only the former interpretation. This study tests whether Corsican listeners' interpretation of this contour is dynamically influenced by implicit regional cues in the context corresponding to either Corsica or Paris. If implicit social cues differentially activate specific interpretation patterns, then listeners exposed to a Continental cue should provide more assertion responses than those exposed to a Corsican cue.