



TALLINN UNIVERSITY  
Baltic Film, Media and  
Arts School



**The 18th International Conference on  
Language and Social Psychology  
(#ICLASP18)  
Abstract Book**



**June 12-16, 2024**

**<https://www.tlu.ee/en/bfm/iclasp18>**

## Table of Contents

Contact information .....	4
Scientific Committee .....	5
Welcome to ICLASP18! .....	6
Welcome to Tallinn University! .....	7
Venue .....	8
Conference Dinner .....	10
WIFI Connections.....	10
ABSTRACTS .....	11
For session and panel chairs and speakers .....	11
Keynote Speaker 1.....	12
Keynote Speaker 2.....	14
Keynote Speaker 3.....	15
Keynote Speaker 4.....	16
Session 1 (Room M-218) .....	17
Session 2 (Room M-342) .....	22
Panel 1 (Room M-648) .....	26
Session 3 (Room M-218) .....	31
Session 4 (Room M-342) .....	35
Panel 2 (Room M-648) .....	39
Session 5 (Room M-218) .....	44
Session 6 (Room M-342) .....	48
Panel 2 (CONT.) (Room M-648).....	52
Session 7 (Room M-218) .....	56
Session 8 (Room M-342) .....	62
Panel 3 (Room M-648) .....	71
Session 9 (Room M-218) .....	77
Session 10 (Room M-342) .....	81
Session 11 (Room M-648) .....	85
Session 12 (Room M-218) .....	89
Session 13 (Room M-342) .....	95
Panel 4 (Room M-648) .....	100
Session 14 (Room M-218) .....	106
Session 15 (Room M-342) .....	109
Session 16 (Room M-648) .....	112
Session 17 (Room M-218) .....	115

<b>Session 18 (Room M-342)</b> .....	118
<b>Session 19 (Room M-648)</b> .....	124
<b>Some useful links</b> .....	127
<b>Tallinn Airport</b> .....	127
<b>Leaving the Airport</b> .....	127
<b>Getting to the Airport</b> .....	127
<b>Public Transport in Tallinn</b> .....	127
<b>Taxi &amp; ridesharing in Tallinn</b> .....	127
<b>DIGITAL TALLINN</b> .....	127
<b>Visit Tallinn</b> .....	127
<b>Between Helsinki and Tallinn onboard a ferry</b> .....	127
<b>Weather forecast in the Internet</b> .....	127
<b>Visit Tartu</b> .....	127
<b>European Capital of Culture: Tartu 2024</b> .....	127
<b>How to get to Tartu by bus</b> .....	127
<b>Tallinn and Tartu Bus Stations</b> .....	127
<b>Safety guidelines</b> .....	127
<b>Pharmacies</b> .....	127

## Contact information

**On behalf of ICLASP18 management team:**

**[Professor Anastassia Zabrodskaia](#)** (Baltic Film, Media and Arts School, Tallinn University, Estonia), conference chair

**[anastassia.zabrodskaia@tlu.ee](mailto:anastassia.zabrodskaia@tlu.ee)**, **+37255659113 (WhatsApp)**

## Scientific Committee

Dr Catherine Brooks - University of Arizona, USA

Sarah Choi - Massey University, New Zealand

Dr Marko Dragojevic - University of Kentucky, USA

Dr Jessica Gasioerek – University of Hawaii, USA

Dr Karolina Hansen - Center for Research on Prejudice at the University of Warsaw, Poland

Dr Elizabeth (Liz) Jones - Monash University, Malaysia

Dr Rachyl Pines - Stanford Health Care, USA

Dr Maggie J. Pitts - University of Arizona, USA

Dr Elvis ResCue - Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana

Dr Ann Rogerson - Faculty of Business and Law at University of Wollongong, Australia

Ivy Xiaoyan Wu - Department of English and Communication at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong

Dr Odilia Yim - University of Toronto, Canada

Dr Blair Ying Jin - The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, China

Dr Anastassia Zabrodska - Tallinn University, Estonia

Dr Yan Bing Zhang - Department of Communication Studies at the University of Kansas, USA

## Welcome to ICLASP18!

**Dear ICLASP18 participants:**

### **Welcome to ICLASP18!**

We are excited to have you join us for the 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Language and Social Psychology, hosted by Tallinn University's Baltic Film, Media and Arts School and the International Association of Language and Social Psychology (IALSP).

This conference has a great deal to experience and enjoy: we have three and a half days of keynotes and research presentations that showcase cutting-edge work in the field of language and social psychology, and social events that give you an opportunity to connect to the people doing that work. I hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to see old friends and make new ones, explore possibilities for research collaborations, and engage with the latest advances in the field.

This is our first in-person conference since June 2018 (due to the global COVID-19 pandemic in the intervening time), and I am extremely grateful to our local host and organizer and host, Anastassia Zabrodskaia, who has worked incredibly hard for the last two years to make sure this event is the best it can be. I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the work of the IALSP Executive, who has been busy behind the scenes coordinating registration, awards, and finances related to the conference. It takes a proverbial village to put on a conference like this, and I am extremely appreciative of everyone who has contributed to making this conference what it is.

**All the best,  
Jessica Gasiorek**

IALSP President (2022-2024), Professor & Graduate Chair, Communicology Program, School of Communication and Information, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (USA)



## Welcome to Tallinn University!

Dear ICLASP18 conference participant,

*Tere tulemast!*

### Welcome to the Baltic Film, Media and Arts School at Tallinn University!

I am thrilled to participate in collaboration with researchers focusing on language and social psychology at Tallinn University's Baltic Film, Media, and Arts School, a hub for intercultural communication and audio-visual knowledge and expertise. This conference holds significant importance for several reasons, including its potential to foster collaboration among experts, highlight groundbreaking research, and address key challenges in our field. My goal is to contribute to providing a platform for exploring and envisioning the future of language, offering solutions as a scholar in intercultural studies. I am wholeheartedly committed to promoting the initiation and implementation of cutting-edge interdisciplinary research and development projects.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I eagerly anticipate your presence in Tallinn! Take the opportunity to explore the impressive and modern buildings of Tallinn University, enhancing your overall conference experience. Lastly, do not forget to savor the unique charm of summer in Tallinn—a medieval city and last year's Green Capital. It provides a captivating setting for our discussions on the dimensions of research in language and social psychology.

**Thank you again for your participation! Enjoy ICLASP18! Thank you! Aitäh!**



**Anastassia Zabrodskaja**, Conference Chair, Professor of Intercultural Communication and Head of the Master's Program in Communication Management, Executive Director of the European Masters in Intercultural Communication

## Venue

Tallinn University Campus: <https://www.tlu.ee/en/campus> or <http://virtualtour.tlu.ee/>

### How to get to rooms M-218, M-342 and M-648

If you approach Tallinn University from Narva Road (**Narva maantee** in Estonian).  
Come to Narva Road, 25 Terra building and find this view:



Then walk along the Narva road (Narva maantee) and follow this arrow:



You will see this building in the courtyard. Pass this building. Turn here round the marked corner.



Congratulations! You have arrived at the Mare building (NB! Address is Uus-Sadama 5). Please come through that door!



Once you are inside, please take the lift to the 2nd floor (press the number 2). You will find our room designated as **M-218**. Alternatively, you may take the lift to the 3rd floor (press the number 3). On the 3rd floor, you can find room **M-342** and the **Mare Atrium**, where coffee breaks, lunches, mingling, and the opening reception will be held. If you press the number 6, you will arrive on the 6th floor and find room **M-648**. **Please note that you can take the stairs between the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors. However, only the lift is available to reach the 6th floor. There are two large lifts available, so everything should be fine.**

## Conference Dinner

The conference dinner is **included** in the conference participation fee. The conference dinner will take place on **Friday, June 14th, at the Estonian Academy of Sciences (Kohtu 6/1, Tallinn), starting at 7 PM**. Click [here](#).

Reservation is under the keyword "**ICLASP18**".

**NB!** Those with allergies are kindly asked to inform the waiter who will then bring them food adapted to their needs.

## WiFi Connections

**Wireless networks at Tallinn University (click [here](#) for more information)**

**Public wireless networks** (WiFi networks) are available in the following university buildings and rooms:

Mare (Uus-Sadama 5, Tallinn): full coverage. SSID: TLU

Terra (Narva rd 25, Tallinn): full coverage. SSID: TLU

### Eduroam

Tallinn University is part of an academic network called Eduroam, which provides our teachers and students free internet access at several universities, institutions and libraries across the world. At every organisation that has joined the project, Eduroam is accessed by logging in with the home university e-mail address (username@tlu.ee) and password.

### Hashtag

Are you connected? Please check how it works by posting about the conference and using the hashtag **#ICLASP18**.

# ABSTRACTS

For session and panel chairs and speakers

**Chairs**, please review the schedule for your session or panel. We recommend organizing each presentation to last 20 minutes, with an additional 7 minutes allocated for discussion per paper and 3 minutes for transitions.

**Speakers**, please arrive 10 minutes early at your allocated room and ensure your presentation is ready on a USB drive. **Presenters are not permitted to use their own computers.**

### **Research on Family Language Policy in the Baltic Countries: State of Art**

**ANNA VERSCHIK**

(Tallinn University, Estonia)

---

During the last few decades, a new field of family language policy (FLP) emerged through the realisation of a simple fact that language policy is not always top-down, centralised and coming from institutions but every language user may have a personal (implicit) language policy. The same is true about linguistic communities and micro-communities such as family. At the same time, a deeper understanding of multilingualism that is not just a sum of several monolingualisms, the concept of multicompetence and multilingual norms contributed to the studies on multilingual families and their FLP. The now classical model of language policy, elaborated by Bernard Spolsky (2004, 2012) and applied to bottom-up policy cases, describes FLP as an interaction of the following components: language beliefs (ideology, language attitudes, ideas about particular languages and language as such), language management (measures taken to achieve the goals, i.e., to provide input in several languages etc) and language practices (the real linguistic behaviour). There might be a clash between the three components, for instance, if parents believe in separation of languages but in reality switch or use bilingual forms.

The model was elaborated since then, and connections between the three components and sociolinguistic, socioeconomic, sociocultural and sociopolitical context and some other broader societal factors was demonstrated (Curdt-Christensen 2018). A great multitude of case studies from different countries, types of multilingualism, sociolinguistic situations and perspectives has appeared. However, there are relatively few studies on post-Soviet countries: a typical candidate for FLP research would be an immigrant/indigenous minority family in the Western world.

The paper provides an overview of FLP research in the Baltic countries that form a special category within the post-Soviet context (i.e., occupied states from 1940 till 1991 where majority was gradually marginalised and turning into minority). The topics in FLP research include classical studies on mixed families, sociolinguistic normalisation and strive of some Russian-speakers towards better command in or even internalisation of Estonian/Latvian/Lithuanian, maintenance of so-called “third minorities languages” (for instance, Tatar), childrens’ agency, language maintenance in old and new émigré communities and many others.

Curdt-Christiansen, X. L. 2018. Family language policy. *The Oxford Handbook of Language Policy and Planning*. Tollefson, J., Pérez-Milans, M. (Eds.). Oxford: Oxford University Press. 420–441. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190458898.001.0001>

Spolsky, B. 2004. *Language Policy Key Topics in Sociolinguistics*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, UK.

Spolsky, B. 2012. Family language policy: The critical domain. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development* 33(1), 3–11.



[Anna Verschik](#) is Distinguished Professor of General Linguistics at Tallinn University. Her field is contact linguistics and multilingualism, including topics like contact-induced language change in the Russian variety of Estonia, English-Estonian language contacts, receptive multilingualism, Yiddish in the Baltic countries, Baltic sociolinguistics, and family language policy. She has published her research in journals such as *International Journal of Bilingualism*, *Sociolinguistic Studies*, *Journal of Language Contact*, *Cognitive Development*, and edited various special issues

and article collections (Schwartz, M., Verschik, A. (eds.) 2013. *Successful Family Language Policy: Parents, Children and Educators in Interaction*. New York: Springer; Verschik, A. (ed.) 2021. *Multilingual Practices in the Baltic Countries*. Tallinn: Tallinn University Press).

### **A Dynamic Dyadic Systems Perspective on Interpersonal Conversation**

**DENISE HAUNANI SOLOMON**

(Penn State University, USA)

---

Conversations between strangers, friends, coworker, romantic partners, and family members are the site where – through language – relationships are commenced or concluded, stressors are amplified or attenuated, conflicts are entrenched or resolved, and goals are advanced or thwarted. What happens in the back-and-forth exchange of messages within conversations to produce such consequential and varied outcomes? Previous answers have tended to focus on characteristics of conversations, in general, or on qualities of specific messages, rather than on the language that partners use over the course of a dyadic interaction. The study of language in conversations has also been constrained by the tools available for the quantitative analysis of conversational dynamics. A dynamic dyadic systems perspective (a) characterizes the language of conversations as sequences of behavior representing the back-and-forth exchange of messages between partners and (b) adapts intensive longitudinal data techniques to operationalize dynamic patterns within conversations. This presentation explicates a dynamic dyadic systems perspective on interpersonal conversation and recounts its development. Initial research informing the development of analytical methods used data from four laboratory observation studies of supportive conversations; in these studies, transcripts were coded at the level of utterances for verbal response modes operationalizing the language of supportive listening. Subsequent research extended the perspective to a variety of conversational episodes, focusing on language within (a) interpersonal influence interactions between peers concerning risky health behaviors, (b) interpersonal conflict interactions between romantic partners discussing a serial argument, and (c) supportive conversations between peers about parental bereavement. To conclude, this presentation illustrates how a dynamic dyadic systems perspective enables novel investigations of language and social interaction in interpersonal relationships.



**Denise Haunani Solomon** (Ph.D. Northwestern University) is a Distinguished Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences at Penn State University. Her research has developed relational turbulence theory, which clarifies how relational uncertainty and disrupted patterns of interdependence in romantic relationships are manifest relationship talk and can result in perceptions of relationships as chaotic. She has also advanced research connecting the language of support and conflict to social psychological antecedents and outcomes. Her recent work forwards a dynamic dyadic systems perspective on the study of language in conversation. In addition, she is co-author of the textbook *Interpersonal Communication: Putting Theory into Practice*.

## Linguistic and Cultural Conceptualisations of Health and Well-Being

FELIX K. AMEKA

(Leiden University, Netherlands)

The third Sustainable Development Goal of the UN is to “[E]nsure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”. The question has to be asked whether people everywhere and globally understand and think of “healthy lives” and “well-being” in the same way as the UN and other global institutions understand them. The WHO Constitution defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” A further definition that is evoked is that health is a state of balance, an equilibrium that an individual has established within themselves and between themselves and their social and physical environment (Sartorius 2006). Even though these three aspects of health would seem to be general I would argue that these perspectives lose out on two dimensions crucial for understanding health in Africa: spirituality and interdependent self. Similarly, concerning well-being there is growing evidence that African models of well-being are different from the western hegemonic understandings of the concept (e.g. Serpell 2022). Using an interpretive anthropological linguistic and cultural semantic approach I will explore some lexical and grammatical resources as well as discursive and cultural practices to discover the conceptual content of the phenomena of health and well-being in various African lingua-cultures. It will emerge that these terms are not understood in the same way as the UN or WHO understandings. There is the need for the localization and contextualization of these terms in order to be able to operationalize the SDG3.

Sartorius N. 2006 The meanings of health and its promotion. *Croat Med J.* 47(4):662-4. PMID: 16909464; PMCID: PMC2080455.

Serpell RN (2022) Editorial: African Cultural Models in Psychology. *Front. Psychol.* 13:849622. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2022.849622



[Felix K. Ameka](#), Emeritus Professor and CIPL/CIPSH Chair Ethnolinguistic Vitality and Diversity, Leiden University, is a socio-cultural-cognitive linguist interested in the use of semiotic signs in social interaction; the reflexive relation between language-culture-and-cognition, multilingualism and (West) African languages. His research focus is descriptive and documentary linguistics, anthropological and contact linguistics and digital humanities. He is Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics*, President of the World Congress of African Linguistics and Fellow of The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (FGA), the Australian Academy of the Humanities (FAHA) and Academia Europaea (MAE). He is co-editor (with Deborah Hill) of *Languages, Linguistics and*

*Development Practices*, Palgrave (2021).

### Change Language to Fit People, not People to Fit Language

SALLY WIGGINS YOUNG

(Linköping University, Sweden)

In a world where change is essential if we are to live healthier and more sustainable lives, language is the forgotten tool. We talk about changing ourselves but rarely consider how the words we use to define ourselves are keeping us trapped in old routines. This paper will address the issue of how change is possible if we focus more closely on how language has defined us: as certain types of people, with certain habits and routines. The context of children's eating practices is used as an illustrative example, since if there is one thing that we wish to change it is how children eat. A discursive psychological perspective is used to explicate the ways in which psychological matters, such as food likes and dislikes, are organised through discursive and embodied practices within social interaction. By treating discourse as constructing rather than reflecting the world, we can examine how these discursive practices become deeply embedded in the most mundane of situations: when we eat together. Data examples are taken from family dinners in the UK and preschool lunches in Sweden to illustrate how we become trapped within existing understandings of ourselves through language. It will be argued that we need to adapt our discursive practices to allow for change rather than trying to fit ourselves into the constraints of language.



[Sally Wiggins Young](#) is Professor of Discursive Psychology at Linköping University, Sweden. Her research interests focus on social eating practices with particular attention to the discursive management of psychological concepts such as food preferences, disgust, and satiety. Much of her work has studied family mealtime interaction though she is currently leading a project examining lunchtime practices in Swedish preschools. She is author of the methods textbook *Discursive Psychology: Theory, Methods, and Applications* (2017) and co-editor (with Karin Osvaldsson Cromdal) of *Discursive Psychology and Embodiment* (2021).

## **Regional populism: Role of rhetoric and exclusionary reform in Sikkim, a state/region in India**

BHASKER MALU

(Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences, O P Jindal Global University, India)

---

Populism has largely been studied from a national perspective which creates a limited understanding of the phenomenon as demographic characteristics of nations are more heterogeneous in terms of ethnicities, race, caste, religion, and so on. This heterogeneity allows minority groups to still have substantial numbers to affect policy and politics, thereby protecting them from extreme forms of populist rhetoric and exclusionary tendencies of populism. In contrast, states within nations are created based on similarity of language, ethnicity, history and culture. Homogenous populations within states who also form the majority and in-groups could create a situation for polarization rhetoric, while minorities who are smaller in number and outgroups, are less powerful and would face exclusionary populist reform. We contend that homogeneity of demographic majority in states or regions within nations would have extreme forms of populist rhetoric and starker exclusionary politics of populism against minorities. The present study was conducted with a minority and state-based repressed group known as the old settlers in Sikkim, India. The old settlers are a community that have been historically settled in Sikkim prior to the state's merger with India in 1975. They are racially and ethnically different from the majority population in Sikkim. A qualitative approach using semi structured interviews with eleven old settlers was taken to understand populist rhetoric and politics in the region. Thematic analysis revealed the political rhetoric in Sikkim was highly populist where the old settlers were referred to as the economic elites, immigrants, others, while exclusionary laws were passed that restricted them from applying for state government jobs, income tax exemptions, state welfare facilities, scholarships, pensions funds, and hospital treatments. The implication of the study was that exclusionary populism in the regional context is easier and more targeted at the minorities as the populace in regional areas are more homogenous and easier to categorize as ingroups and outgroups.

**Bhasker Malu** is an Associate Professor at the Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences. He has a PhD in Social Psychology from CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore, India. His research interests are in the areas of social identity, discrimination, and populism. He has developed three mobile applications that provide free notes, practice tests, and videos to help individuals learn about psychology. He has published two books for psychology exam preparation and two fiction novels. He is also a TEDx speaker.

## The war of discourses

AGNIESZKA DODA-WYSZYŃSKA

(Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland)

---

In the war of discourses, we can lose our speech. Contemporary culture highlighting the role of professionals, experts and specialists, especially in technology, causes fear and shame among those who do not represent any specialization. The figure of specialist (The Master) is important figure by means of which the society reduced to mass / population is managed.

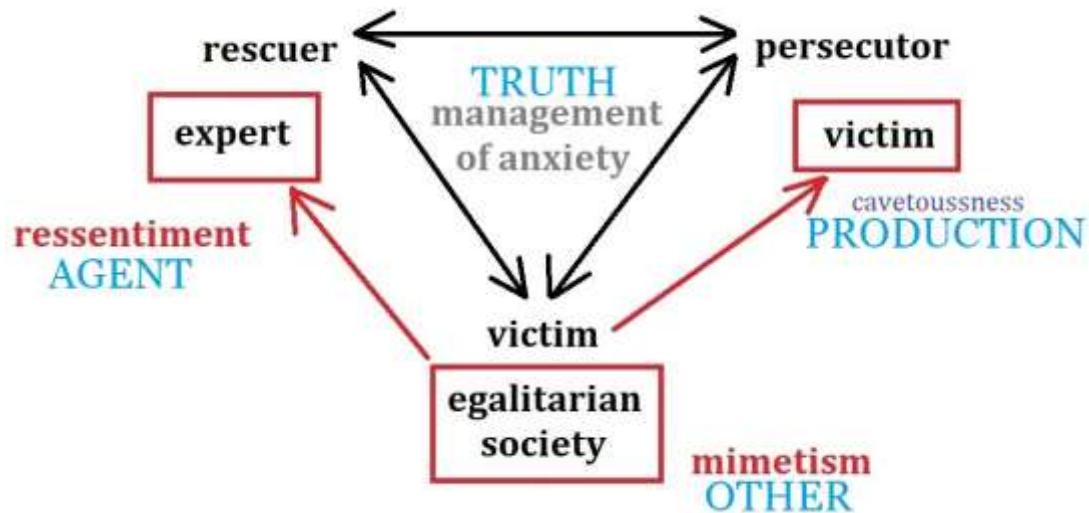
I will use Jacques Lacan's discourse theory, which develops Hegel's master-slave theory. In political systems based on a distinct differentiation between the rulers and their subjects (master and servant), emotions lose their defensive functions and are imposed and supervised from above.

They are related to particular figures (representations). The tradition of identifying the figure of master with death itself comes from Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. Master does not fear death, is unaware of danger, does not know death. Aleksandr Kojève (influenced by Jacques Lacan's seminars) developed Hegel's dialectics of mastery and servitude. It can be simply presented in the following way: during an encounter of two individuals whose behavior is driven by desire, invariably there comes an attempt at objectification. At the beginning, they want to treat each other as objects (use or consume), but it turns out to be difficult. They meet resistance and the contest begins.

How does this struggle (the dialectic of servile consciousness) manifest itself at the communication level?



The places of Lacanian discourse (Lacan, 1975).



The society inscribed in the scheme of Karpman's dramatic triangle and the places of Lacanian discourse.

Karpman, S. (1968). Fairy tales and script drama analysis. *Transactional Analysis Bulletin*, 7(26), 39-43.

Kojève, A. (1969). Introduction to the Reading of Hegel: Lectures on the "Phenomenology of Spirit". (A. Bloom. Ed., J. H. Nichols. Trans.). New York: Basic Books.

Lacan, J. (1975). Le Séminaire, livre 20, Encore (1972-1973). Paris: Seuil.

**Agnieszka Doda-Wyszyńska** - a professor at the Institute of Cultural Studies of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (Poland). Interests: concept of discourse and irony; ideas of French philosophers (f.e. Baudrillard, Lacan, Foucault, Rancière, Girard) aimed at overcoming the uselessness of philosophy in the fight against social problems.

---

## Troubling encounters in public spaces: Immigrants accounting for problematic interactions with strangers in Finland

ANNIKA VALTONEN  
(Tampere University, Finland)

---

A large part of immigrants residing in Finland report having experienced discrimination from strangers (Rask et al. 2018). Such problematic interactions between previously unknown persons in public spaces can cause long-lasting distress and experiences of otherness (see Cui 2014). Being able to account for these troubling encounters is integral for overcoming their negative effects on a personal level, and for seeking social change. These accounts often take the form of narratives. However, accounting for experiences of problematic interactions may prove difficult due to various factors. First, accounting for interactional trouble is a delicate activity, complicated by moral work, such as efforts to protect both the narrator's and the account recipient's faces (see Jefferson 1988, Norrick 2005, Whitehead 2013). Second, the interactional trouble may be so subtle that it's hard to verbalize and form into a coherent narrative afterwards (see Cui 2014). Additionally, differing cultural understandings and a lack of a shared language during the initial problematic encounter can make relaying the experience difficult.

In this presentation, a dataset of semi-structured interviews with 23 first-generation immigrants recruited through Finnish multicultural organizations is analyzed, using Bamberg's (1997) narrative positioning analysis. This presentation explores how immigrants account for the problematic interactions they experience with strangers in public places in Finland, by answering the three-part research question: How do immigrants position themselves as moral actors 1) in their narratives of problematic interactions, 2) in relation to the recipients of the narratives, and 3) in relation to major societal discourses regarding immigration?

Findings shed light on the problematic interactions that immigrants experience in their everyday lives, and on the dilemmas related to accounting for these experiences. Deeper understanding of the problematic interactions and the dilemmas in accounting for them is key to fostering social support and for promoting anti-racism in everyday interactions.

Bamberg, M. (1997) Positioning between structure and performance. *Journal of Narrative & Life History*, 7(1–4), 335–342.

Cui, X. (2014) Getting to the source: Dynamics of problematic interactions. *RELC Journal*, 45(2), 197–210.

Jefferson, G. (1988) On the Sequential Organization of Troubles-Talk in Ordinary Conversation. *Social Problems* 35(4), 418–441.

Norrick, N. (2005) The dark side of tellability. *Narrative inquiry* 15(2), 323–343.

Rask, S., Elo, I., Koskinen, S., Lilja, E., Koponen, P., & Castaneda, A. (2018) The association between discrimination and health: findings on Russian, Somali and Kurdish origin populations in Finland. *European Journal of Public Health*, 28(5), 898–903.

Whitehead, K. (2013) Managing self/other relations in complaint sequences: The use of self-deprecating and affiliative racial categorizations. *Research on language and social interaction*, 46(2), 186–203.

**Annika Valtonen** is a doctoral researcher in the field of social psychology from Tampere University, Finland. Her dissertation concerns the interactionally troublesome exchanges that immigrants face in their daily lives, and what kind of dilemmas are related to accounting for these experiences.

## Analysing nativist populist cultural value rhetoric as an essentialist/de-essentialist ideological dilemma

JOHN SHAYEGH<sup>1</sup>, LESLEY STOREY<sup>2</sup>, RHIANNON TURNER<sup>1</sup> AND JOHN BARRY<sup>1</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom; <sup>2</sup>Anglia Ruskin University, United Kingdom)

This project is informed by social psychological research which demonstrates how social actors discursively (re)define and legitimise prejudice (Dixon & Levine, 2012). We focus on how nativist populists depict ingroup threat based on divergent cultural values (e.g., Wodak et al., 2013). Previous research has identified two common-sense portrayals of cultural values: an essentialist version, where group values are inherent and fixed, and a de-essentialist one, where values are active choices (Verkuyten, 2003). The research question asked whether essentialism and de-essentialism could be considered as two contradictory yet co-existing themes in nativist populist rhetoric? We used an ideological dilemmas approach, which analyses tensions arising from common-sense ideologies and their rhetorical functions (Billig et al., 1988), and investigated three liberal democracies with significant nativist populist successes in 2016: the U.K., U.S., and Australia. We collected political speeches (approx. 42,000 words) as well as newspaper op-eds (approx. 52,000). Our analysis demonstrates that nativist populists employ a dilemmatic version of cultural values, where immigrants are characterised as possessing inherently incompatible values, while also being able to adopt ingroup values but choosing not to. We argue this is functional because nativists aim to cultivate stronger essentialist conceptions of nationhood within public debate but are constrained by anti-prejudice norms (Blinder et al., 2013). We argue the dilemma functioned to cultivate understandings of immigration based on biological innateness while adhering to norms of free choice and rational accounting. The findings highlight a dynamic relationship between cultural and biological racism that is often overlooked in analyses of discourse (e.g., Hogan & Haltinner, 2015), and provide support to work challenging clear demarcations between 'old' (i.e., biological) and 'new' (i.e., cultural) racisms (Leach, 2005). Thus, the concept of an essentialist/de-essentialist dilemma is an additional analytic tool to understand the processes of division enacted by nativist populists.

Billig, M., Condor, S., Edwards, D., Gane, M., Middleton, D., & Radley, A. (1988). *Ideological dilemmas: A social psychology of everyday thinking*. Sage.

Dixon, J., & Levine, M. (Eds.). (2012). *Beyond prejudice: Extending the social psychology of conflict, inequality and social change*. Cambridge University Press.

Hogan, J., & Haltinner, K. (2015). Floods, invaders, and parasites: Immigration threat narratives and right-wing populism in the USA, UK and Australia. *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 36(5), 520-543.

Leach, C. W. (2005). Against the notion of a 'new racism'. *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, 15(6), 432-445.

Verkuyten, M. (2003). Discourses about ethnic group (de-) essentialism: Oppressive and progressive aspects. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 42(3), 371-391.

Wetherell, M. (2012). The prejudice problematic. In J. Dixon & M. Levine (Eds.), *Beyond prejudice: Extending the social psychology of conflict, inequality and social change* (pp. 158-178). Cambridge University Press.

Wodak, R., KhosraviNik, M. and Mral, B. (2013) *Right-wing populism in Europe: Politics and discourse*. Bloomsbury.

**John Shayegh** is a postdoctoral researcher at Queen's University Belfast. He is a mixed-method researcher working at the intersection of social psychology and political systems to understand pressing social issues including political identities, prejudice, intergroup relations, and how they relate to nativist populism in Global North nations.

**Lesley Storey** is a social psychologist with an interest in health issues and social justice. Her political psychology research looks at issues of inter-group conflict and social group memberships. Her health research looks at the psychosocial impact of cancer, particularly sarcoma. Her current focus is on fear of recurrence.

**Rhiannon Turner** is a social psychologist with a specific focus on intergroup relations, prejudice, and prejudice-reduction. She was appointed as Chair in Social Psychology at Queen's in September 2012. She is currently Director of Research and REF Champion for the School of Psychology and Director of the Centre for Identity and Intergroup Relations.

**John Barry** is a political science researcher specialising in green political theory, the political economy of sustainability, greening the economy, and environmental and sustainable development policy-making. He also has an interest in citizenship, democracy and green politics and how these relate to contemporary political movements.

**Turner syndrome women's perceptions of short stature as a cause of social exclusion: A discourse analytic approach**

KAMILA CIEPIELA

(University of Lodz, Poland)

---

The primary manifestation of Turner Syndrome (TS) articulated on the body is short stature. Presently, girls with TS undergo growth hormone treatment (GHT) to address this issue. However, women who completed puberty before the year 2000 did not receive GHT since the Polish Ministry of Health began reimbursing it in 2000, and the therapy is deemed ineffective post-puberty. Consequently, women who missed out on GHT exhibit an average height approximately 20 centimeters shorter than the general population, not surpassing 140 centimeters. This study aimed to achieve two objectives: (a) examine how women with Turner Syndrome perceive their bodies and how they connect it to prejudice and social isolation, and (b) compare and contrast these perceptions based on the criteria of the receipt of GHT and the actual body height of the woman. Ten Polish women with TS participated in semi-structured interviews (4 did not receive GHT). Transcriptions of the interviews underwent initial quantitative analysis to identify main themes and were subsequently subjected to propositional discourse analysis. Results, interpreted in light of Sen's (2000) theory of social exclusion, revealed that both the actual short stature and the body image held by women with TS (even in absence of height deficit) have constitutive relevance for relational capability failure.

Sen, A. (2000). *Social exclusion: Concept, application, and scrutiny*. The Asian Development Bank.

**Kamila Ciepiela** is Associate Professor at the Institute of English Studies, University of Lodz, Poland. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5237-3998>. Her research interests span issues of the self and identity and how the two are embedded in different discourse practices and across contexts of communication.

---

## Testifying to accent bias and language anxiety: Experimental studies of attitudes toward witnesses' accents and their effects on legal decision-making

BRAYAN ANDREY  
(University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland)

---

Jurors are subject to accent biases when they serve on trials involving nonnative witnesses (Roessel, Schoel, and Stahlberg 2020). Additionally, nonnative witnesses may experience language anxiety due to fear of stigmatization (Dragojevic et al. 2021). However, the influence of language attitudes on juror decision-making remains unclear, as research has yielded inconsistent results (Frumkin and Thompson 2020). The present project investigates the effects of accent bias against nonnative speakers and language anxiety on juror decision-making. It compares attitudes of native speakers of English and French-accented speakers of English toward two native accents (General American English, which is standard, and Southern American English, which is nonstandard) and two nonnative accents (French-accented English, representing participants' ingroup accent, and German-accented English, representing their outgroup accent). The present paper reports on three experimental tasks. Task 1 is a self-paced listening experiment based on a scripted conversation between a French-accented witness and a lawyer, whose accent contrasts with the witness's. The lawyer makes derogatory comments on the witness's accent in half of the conditions. Participants' reading times, evaluations of the witness's personality, and acceptance of discrimination are measured. Task 2 consists of trials inspired by auditory affective priming and implicit association tests. Task 3 uses questionnaires involving social desirability effects. Both tasks measure implicit and explicit attitudes toward nonnative English in order to determine whether the attitudes observed in the previous tasks rely on implicit or explicit mechanisms. In summary, this study analyzes the social and cognitive mechanisms at play in accent bias against nonnative speakers in the legal setting. It aims to contribute to the understanding of problems caused by language attitudes and the use of linguistics as a tool to counteract prejudice in the justice system (see Kinzler 2021; Rickford and King 2016).

- Dragojevic, M., Fasoli, F., Cramer, J., & Rakić, T. (2021). Toward a century of language attitudes research: Looking back and moving forward. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 40(1), 60–79.
- Frumkin, L. A., & Thompson, A. (2020). The impact of different British accents on perceptions of eyewitness statements. *Journal of Language and Discrimination*, 4(1), 119–137.
- Kinzler, K. D. (2021). Language as a social cue. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 72, 241–264.
- Rickford, J. R., & King, S. (2016). Language and linguistics on trial: Hearing Rachel Jeantel (and other vernacular speakers) in the courtroom and beyond. *Language*, 92(4), 948–988.
- Roessel, J., Schoel, C., & Stahlberg, D. (2020). Modern notions of accent-ism: Findings, conceptualizations, and implications for interventions and research on nonnative accents. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 39(1), 87–111.

**Brayan Andrey** is a doctoral assistant in English linguistics at the University of Neuchâtel. He is interested in the intersection of linguistics with experimental social psychology. Through the use of experimental methods, his doctoral thesis examines the social and cognitive mechanisms at play in accent bias in the legal setting.

## Beyond gender binarism in research:

### Researching gender identity through non-binary inclusive strategies

ANDREA SCATOLON, ALESSIA MODICA AND CATERINA SUITNER

(University of Padua, Italy)

---

A growing number of international researchers has provided considerations on how gender identity should be properly evaluated and treated as variable in research (e.g., Lindqvist et al. 2021). The use of Non-Binary Exclusive (NBE) gender options ultimately leads to an overall misrepresentation (and discrimination) of gender identities. The present line of research aims at expanding current knowledge concerning the implications of (not) using Non-Binary Inclusive (NBI) demographic items, in the specific context of Italy (relatively understudied within this topic of research). In a preliminary archival study (comparison of 2010 versus 2020 scientific papers), we found that gender assessment strategies are becoming progressively more NBI – even though many authors neglected to include detailed strategies in the manuscript. From an additional analysis of online surveys created by researchers in our psychology department, it emerged how NBI options increased as years passed by, with individuals identifying themselves with non-binary labels rising as well. Furthermore, an experimental study focused on the impact of assessing gender identity via NBI versus NBE options. When asked about gender with binary options at the beginning of the questionnaire, non-binary participants expressed greater levels of anxiety while completing the survey - particularly when they strongly identified with the LGBTQIA+ community. We are currently running a conceptual replication of this study design, which will provide a more in-depth analysis of participants' emotional reactions such as anger (in line with Fath & Proudfoot, 2024). To sum up, we claim that our line of research provide proof of how language inclusivity increases visibility and favors one's free expression of their gender identity, represents a concrete strategy to safeguard the well-being of non-binary individuals answering surveys, and ultimately assures good-quality data - particularly when gender is relevant for the aims of the research.

Fath, S., & Proudfoot, D. (2024). Devaluation by Omission: Limited Identity Options Elicit Anger and Increase Identification. *Psychological Science*, 35 (3), 239-249.

Lindqvist, A., Sendén, M. G., & Renström, E. A. (2021). What is gender, anyway: a review of the options for operationalising gender. *Psychology & sexuality*, 12(4), 332-344.

**Andrea Scatolon** is a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Padua. Their main research interests deal with different communication and moralisation strategies regarding economic redistribution and taxation, the intersection between climate change and economic inequalities, and gender inclusivity beyond the gender binary. **Alessia Modica** is a Master's student in Clinic and Dynamic Psychology at the University of Padua. She will graduate with a thesis focused on parenting and non-binary people. She is interested in the study of the LGBTQIA+ community, and during her internship she will work with transgender and non-binary people.

**Caterina Suitner** is Associate Professor at the University of Padova. Her research focuses on the relationship between social cognition and language, with particular attention to the role of para-semantic linguistic features and their role in attitude formation (e.g., trust in vaccines) and belief in fake news, social inequality, and gender issues.

## Session 2 (Room M-342)

---

### **Understanding the development of the intercultural sensitivity of personnel in the U.S. armed forces**

MARIA SHEILA BALOSBALOS-ARADO

(Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, United States)

---

Given the nature of recent and upcoming military engagements, there is growing interest in incorporating more cultural learning into US military training in order to better prepare military personnel to respond to security challenges in international theaters of operation. Costly mistakes and painful lessons from the United States' involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq since the early 2000s heightened this need and convinced the Department of Defense that its military personnel must have the necessary knowledge, skills, and intercultural competence to meet the demands of frequent and demanding complex multicultural engagements.

This presentation shares the results of a multi-year study of U.S. military personnel from a language school in Monterey, California. The study contributes to the state of knowledge about the level of intercultural sensitivity of U.S. military personnel as well as personal and professional factors that contribute to more ethnorelative intercultural orientations. To date, little work has been conducted to measure and understand the intercultural sensitivity of U.S. military personnel.

The research revealed that a majority of subjects have Minimization and Defense/Polarization orientations, which is consistent with other professionals, and that most significantly overestimated their intercultural sensitivity to a greater degree than subjects in other studies. Less than five percent scored in the lowest category, Denial. Less than five percent scored in the fourth-highest category, Acceptance, while none scored at the highest level, Adaptation. Personal and demographic factors contributing most to intercultural sensitivity were family upbringing, living in culturally diverse areas, intercultural encounters, foreign language proficiency, and ethnicity and race. The most influential professional factors were integrating culture into language training, ongoing cultural training, cultural knowledge, the frequency of intercultural encounters in multiple contexts, and leadership attitudes. The findings provide valuable insights for scholars, policymakers, curriculum developers, military leaders, and others actively involved in working with and training U.S. military personnel.

**Maria Sheila Balosbalos-Arado** is an Associate Professor at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Monterey, California with over 20 years of experience in foreign language education. Her interests include second language acquisition, curriculum and instruction, peace and conflict studies, intercultural learning, and intercultural competence.

**Exploring the nexus of privilege, inequality, and intergroup dynamics in language and communication**

MAGDALENA FORMANOWICZ

(Center for Research on Social Relations, SWPS University, Poland)

---

In four contributions, we shed light on the intricate ways in which framing, language, and communication influence our understanding of privilege, inequality, and intergroup dynamics. Through a thorough multi-study empirical approach or by the means of a theoretical synthesis, proposed talks emphasize the significant impact of language and communication on our comprehension of societal interactions.

**Magdalena Formanowicz** is an associate professor at the Center for Research on Social Relations, SWPS University in Warsaw. Her research focuses on social cognition and language. She is also interested in dehumanization and agency.

---

## Privilege and disadvantage framing shape explanations of and suggestions for interventions against different kinds of inequality

SUSANNE BRUCKMÜLLER<sup>1</sup> AND MAIKE BRAUN<sup>1,2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany; <sup>2</sup>University of Hohenheim, Germany)

---

Inequality can be framed as one group's advantage or as another group's disadvantage. Even though the two are logically equivalent, disadvantage framing is more common, even in research on inequality. Critical scholars have long voiced concerns that this may create blindness for privileging mechanisms and thereby help hold systems of inequality in place. In four experiments in three different countries, covering two inequality domains, we examined how framing inequality as advantage versus as disadvantage affects explanations of and suggestions for interventions against inequality. In Studies 1 (N = 228) and 2 (N = 495, preregistered), U.K. participants who read about gender inequality framed as disadvantages for women (rather than advantages for men) generated relatively more explanations of gender inequality focusing on women and relatively fewer explanations focusing on men. They also generated more suggestions of interventions targeting women at the expense of interventions aimed at systemic changes. In Study 3 (N = 249, Germany, preregistered) and Study 4 (N = 248, U.S., preregistered), participants who read about the poor having less generated more explanations of inequality focusing on the poor than participants who read about the rich having more. German participants (Study 3) reading about poor people's disadvantage also indicated a generally higher support for government interventions and suggested more specific interventions aimed at helping the poor (e.g., welfare programs) and somewhat fewer interventions targeting the rich (e.g., taxes). This did not replicate among U.S. participants (Study 4), who, however, saw higher government/system responsibility for bringing about change after they had read about the rich having more. In sum, these studies show that one-sided framings of inequality can lead to more one-sided understandings of and policies against inequality, which fits with the concern that such frames may in subtle ways serve to uphold systems of inequality.

**Susanne Bruckmüller** is Professor and Chair of Social Psychology at Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg. Her work focuses on social cognition and communication. She is particularly interested in the role of language in processes of cultural reproduction and social change in contexts of unequal intergroup relations.

**Maike Braun** is a doctoral candidate at the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg and a researcher at the University of Hohenheim. Her research focusses on communication in contexts of social inequality and how it can contribute to social change.

---

## Talking about privilege:

### Framing inequality as advantage is more likely for inequality in positive rather than negative outcomes

ANNETTE MALAPALLY AND SUSANNE BRUCKMÜLLER

(Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany)

---

Inequality is often one-sidedly framed as disadvantage, while advantage and privilege remain less visible. Importantly, advantage can mean having more of something positive (e.g., promotions) or less of something negative (e.g., harassment). The presence of positive (vs. absence of negative) outcomes should be easier to process and match linguistic preferences better. Thus, we tested whether considering differences in positive (rather than negative) outcomes makes it more likely that participants frame inequality as advantage. Study 1 used a correlational design and examined how people frame gender inequality in real, social media posts. Frames and valence of posts were manually coded ( $n = 1,402$ ). In Study 2, a pre-registered online-experiment ( $n = 164$ ), participants formed sentences about gender and sexual orientation inequality around positive (e.g., salary raise) and negative things (e.g., harassment). Confirming hypotheses, people overall used disadvantage frames more than advantage frames to describe inequality. However, participants used advantage frames more to describe inequality in positive (compared to negative) things. Starting with positive outcomes may thus facilitate conversations about privilege. This is particularly relevant because effort to reduce inequality need to tackle both disfavoring and favoring mechanisms and therefore rely on making advantage more visible. However, privilege awareness exercises (e.g., privilege checklists) often focus on the absence of negative outcomes.

**Annette Malapally** is a doctoral student of social psychology at Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg. Her work focuses on social cognition and communication in contexts of inequality between social groups and relies on mixed methods, ranging from classical experiments to machine-learning based social media analyses.

**Susanne Bruckmüller** is Professor and Chair of Social Psychology at Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg. Her work focuses on social cognition and communication. She is particularly interested in the role of language in processes of cultural reproduction and social change in contexts of unequal intergroup relations.

---

## Disadvantaged group members are prouder of their group when using the language of the dominant group compared to their native language

ORLY IDAN<sup>\*1</sup>, SIWAR HASAN-ASLIH<sup>\*2</sup>, ROBB WILLER<sup>2</sup> & ERAN HALPERIN<sup>3</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>Reichman University (IDC, Herzliya), Israel; <sup>2</sup>Stanford University, USA; <sup>3</sup> The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel)

*\*Indicates authors contributed equally*

---

In ethnically and linguistically diverse societies, disadvantaged groups often face pressures to acquire and speak the advantaged group's language to achieve social inclusion and economic mobility. This work investigates how using the advantaged group's language affects disadvantaged group members' ingroup pride and collective self-esteem, relative to using their native language. We test two competing hypotheses: disadvantaged group members may experience greater ingroup pride when using (a) their native language, due to its emotional significance (the *Nativity Hypothesis*), or (b) the language of the advantaged group, due to activation of habituated compensatory responses to dominance relations (the *Identity Enhancement Hypothesis*), across six experimental studies conducted among Palestinian citizens of Israel (total  $N = 1,348$ ). We found that respondents reported significantly higher ingroup pride when responding to a Hebrew survey when compared to performing the same activity in Arabic (Studies 1a and 1b), regardless of whether the researchers administering the survey were identified as Jewish or Arab (Studies 2a and 2b). Study 3 replicated this effect while employing the "bogus-pipeline" technique, suggesting the pride expression was authentic, not merely driven by social desirability. Finally, Study 4 (pre-registered) examined additional measures of positive regard for the ingroup, finding that participants described their group more positively in an attribute selection task, and reported greater collective self-esteem, when surveyed in Hebrew, rather than in Arabic. Taken together, these findings suggest that language use influences disadvantaged group members' perceptions and feelings concerning their group when those languages are associated with relative position in an intergroup hierarchy.

**Orly Idan** is a research fellow at the Institute of Liberty and Responsibility, Reichman University; and senior associate researcher at the Psychology of Intergroup Conflict and Reconciliation Lab, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her research focuses on language in shaping emotions, perceptions and attitude change in the context of conflict.

**Siwar Hasan-Aslih** is a postdoctoral fellow at the Polarization and Social Change Lab, Stanford University. Her research encompasses collective action, social movements, emotions, intergroup relations, and intergroup conflicts. Her work centers on motivations for social movement, political participation, and the impact of collective action on public opinion and intergroup relations.

**Robb Willer** is a Professor of Sociology, Psychology (by courtesy), and Organizational Behavior (by courtesy) at Stanford University. His research uses diverse methods (survey and field experiments, LLMs, formal theory) to investigate questions relating to morality, politics, and hierarchy.

**Eran Halperin** is a Professor in the Psychology Department, Hebrew University in Jerusalem. An award-winning researcher of emotional processes and field experimentalist, Halperin uses psychological and political theories to investigate factors driving intergroup conflicts. His work develops new approaches for modifying the psychological roots of intolerance, exclusion, and intergroup violence.

---

## **Linguistic agency bias - How cues of agency used in language reflect group dynamics**

MAGDALENA FORMANOWICZ<sup>1</sup> AND CATERINA SUITNER<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>Center for Research on Social Relations, SWPS University, Poland, <sup>2</sup>University of Padova, Italy)

---

This theoretical presentation focuses on the most recent literature about linguistic cues of agency, defined as the general capacity to act in a purposeful manner. Human agency can also be described as the "socioculturally mediated capacity to act" because goal attainment depends on contextual factors, thus positioning agency in the center of social dynamics. The importance of agency is also reflected in language and encoded in verbal communication at various linguistic layers. This multiple encoding reflects the importance assigned to agency in information processing, as there is a general attentional bias toward agentic targets. In a similar vein, language processing prioritizes actors or players who perform an action to which we should potentially be alerted, both at the individual and group levels. This presentation elucidates the recent compelling evidence for semantic, grammatical, and metaphorical manifestations of agency as diagnostic cues for agency-related interpersonal and intergroup phenomena by focusing on multiple linguistic manifestations of agency that reference stereotyping, dehumanization, and maintaining and challenging the status quo. We highlight these findings, as they may become useful for research examining textual data, and as such, we join numerous other voices pointing out the importance of language in reflecting social order and affecting its reproduction and change. We also aim to contribute to the creation of a toolbox that scientists and policy makers can apply to reach a deeper understanding of the formative role of social communication.

**Magdalena Formanowicz** is an associate professor at the Center for Research on Social Relations, SWPS University in Warsaw. Her research focuses on social cognition and language. She is also interested in dehumanization and agency.

**Caterina Suitner** is an Associate Professor at the University of Padova. Her research focuses on the relationship between social cognition and language, with particular attention to the role of para-semantic linguistic features and their role in attitude formation and belief in fake news, social inequality, and gender issues.

## Erroneous inferences from voice about people with multiple sclerosis: a risk of potential stigma

LAETITIA BRUCKERT<sup>1</sup> AND MARIE-CLAIRE GAY<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>University of Lorraine, France; <sup>2</sup> University Paris Nanterre, France)

The symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) cause stigma for the patients: suspicion of alcoholism due to their gait, insinuations of laziness at work due to the fatigue... (Pérez-Miralles *et al*, 2018). Moreover, MS shares many symptoms with depression: loss of appetite, sleep, libido.... but above all fatigue. Yet fatigue has an effect on voice (Krajewski *et al*, 2009) and could be detectable by listening. Furthermore, the detection of emotions (and even more so depression) by listeners from voice is possible and more reliable than with faces (Kraus, 2017). We carried out a pilot study on voice production and perception in the symptomatology of MS. We hypothesized that MS has an effect on voice (due to fatigue) at an early stage of the disease and would be detectable by listening. We hypothesized too that the effects of MS and depression on voice merge, hence a confusion between MS and depression by listening. Our study investigated listeners's judgments from voice (28 voices from the general population, 32 from MS patients (non-dysarthric), 25 from depressed individuals) coupled with acoustic analyses. Post-hoc tests show that the listeners discriminate the MS patients from the control participants ( $p < 0.005$ ) but not from the depressed participants. Moreover, MS patients are judged as depressed (two-alternative forced choice test) even though they are not. Acoustic analyses confirm the effects of fatigue: the values of the average pitch ( $p < 0.05$ ), speech rate ( $p < 0.01$ ), voice intensity ( $p < 0.005$ ) and pitch variation ( $p < 0.05$ ) are decreased equally in MS and depressed individuals, in comparison to the control group. Knowing that people with depression experience stigma (being seen as lazy, undesirable to frequent... Roeloffs *et al*, 2003), our results tend to suggest that the interlocutors of MS patients could judge them (more) negatively, their judgment being biased by what they believe they perceive through the voice.

Kraus, M. W. (2017). Voice-only communication enhances empathic accuracy. *American Psychologist*, 72(7), 644-654.

Krajewski, J., Trutschel, U., Golz, M., Sommer, D., & Edwards, D. (2009). Estimating fatigue from predetermined speech samples transmitted by operator communication systems. In *Proceedings of the Fifth International Driving Conference on Human Factors in Driver Assessment* (pp 468-474). University of Iowa.

Pérez-Miralles, F., Prefasi, D., García-Merino, A., Ara, J. R., Izquierdo, G., Meca-Lallana, V., ... & Casanova, B. (2018). The impact of stigma in people with primary progressive multiple sclerosis. *Multiple Sclerosis Journal*, 24, 768-769.

Roeloffs, C., Sherbourne, C., Unützer, J., Fink, A., Tang, L., & Wells, K. B. (2003). Stigma and depression among primary care patients. *General hospital psychiatry*, 25(5), 311-315.

**Laetitia Bruckert:** Associate Professor in Cognitive Psychology at the University of Lorraine, her expertise is auditory perception and vocal communication.

**Marie-Claire Gay:** Professor in Clinical Psychology at the University Paris Nanterre, her expertise is Health Psychology concerning people with a somatic chronic condition like Multiple Sclerosis.

## Finding, sharing and losing words:

### Navigating the mental lexicon

TESS FITZPATRICK

(Swansea University, United Kingdom)

---

Word association tasks have revealed subtle but important differences in how individuals process language and construe meaning. These differences could account for how language acquisition, use, and attrition (dementias, aphasias) affect connections between words in people's minds. Findings to date hint at group effects and stable individual profiles, but research has been fragmentary, results contradictory, and methodological approaches inconsistent and speculative. This paper presents a framework for an extended programme of research, that focuses on persistent questions in word association research:

- Can judicious selection and application of models of the mental lexicon escalate current capacity to capture and interpret WA patterns?
- Which properties of cue words influence word association behaviour?
- Which properties of individual respondents influence word association behaviour?

The questions will be addressed through the development of tight, theory-informed methods for analysing word association data, which will be tested on existing data sets with distinctive characteristics: they are from participants clearly differentiated by age, perspective, genetic/experiential commonalities, first and second languages, and sensory/cognitive impairment. Categorisation of associative responses will generate "individual word association profiles"; comparing these using proximity analyses can reveal patterns in the associative behaviour of individuals with shared characteristics.

Findings will enable the mapping of word association behaviour onto the dynamic structures of the mental lexicon, and the generation of new models of lexical processing. This sustained programme of research will facilitate breakthroughs in understanding communicative effectiveness, language learning and language loss.

*\*This research is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), part of UK Research and Innovation\**

**Tess Fitzpatrick** is Professor of Applied Linguistics, Swansea University, and was Chair of the British Association for Applied Linguistics 2015-2018. She leads projects on vocabulary, language learning, and health communication. She was awarded Fellowship of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2017 for her work in lexical/cognitive processes and language education.

**“I have been eating void all these years”:**

**A critical discourse analysis of public perceptions of beauty supplements**

BIN WANG

(University of Porto, Portugal)

---

The consumption of dietary supplements for beauty purposes has grown popular in recent years (Perez-Sanches *et al.*, 2020), but people’s perceptions toward the use of beauty supplements have not been studied in detail. The present study aims to investigate the public’s perceptions of the consumption of beauty supplements and attitudes toward non-users and users of such supplements by examining how these perceptions are constructed in and therefore emerge from language. Replies (N=462) to a post about beauty supplements published on Xiaohongshu, a popular Chinese social media, are collected for the current study. The poster presents her use of beauty supplements for seven years albeit without evident effects and proposes a question inquiring whether she should continue the use. The comments are analyzed using critical discourse analysis (Fairclough, 2003) with a focus on agency, modality, and implicitness. The results show different attitudes among users: while advocating users often praise the efficacy of beauty supplements based on empirical knowledge obtained from personal use, other users construct the supplements as the cause of abrupt health problems. As for the users, they are often positioned as people who need scientific education or lack rational thinking, while non-users are often positioned as the ones without first-hand epistemology foundations. Previous research has found the co-occurrence of health-related issues and the consumption of beauty or other dietary supplements (Knapik *et al.*, 2023), but the causality or any direct relationship between the two is difficult to explain, which might explain why the construction of beauty supplements as a product is often expressed in implicit manners (Verchueren, 1999).

Fairclough, N. (2003). *Analysing discourse: Textual Analysis for Social Research*. Psychology Press.

Knapik, J., Trone, D., Steelman, R., Farina, E., & Lieberman, H. (2023). Associations between clinically diagnosed medical conditions and dietary supplement use: The US military dietary supplement use study. *Public Health Nutrition*, 26(6), 1238-1253.

Perez-Sanchez A. C., Tantry E. K., Burns E. K., Perez, V. M., Prabhu, S., & Katta, R. (2020) Skin, Hair, and Nail Supplements: Marketing and Labeling Concerns. *Cureus* 12(12): e12062.

Verchueren, J. (1999). *Understanding Pragmatics*. Oxford University Press.

**Bin Wang** is a PhD candidate at the University of Porto, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and her thesis is about deception analysis using a pragmatic approach. She is interested in pragmatics, discourse analysis, and poststructuralism.

## **Unmasking sentiment disguise in cross-cultural literary translation: Analyzing Oscar Wilde’s “The Happy Prince” and its heartbroken audience**

YANJIN LIU

(City University of Macau, China)

---

The emotional impact of literature, particularly within the realm of children’s literature (Jacobs et al., 2020), has sparked interest in understanding how sentiment is conveyed and perceived across different cultures. This study aims to investigate the presence of sentiment disguise in readers’ perceptions and emotional responses to literary works, focusing specifically on Oscar Wilde’s renowned piece, “The Happy Prince”. Drawing on the theoretical framework of sentiment analysis and translation studies, this research explores how emotions may be altered or concealed during the translation process, leading to sentiment disguise.

Using the NRC Emotion Lexicon (Mohammad & Turney, 2013) as a methodological tool, sentiment analysis was conducted on translated versions of “The Happy Prince” to uncover the presence of sentiment disguise in its reception. The analysis revealed instances where emotions were subtly transformed or masked, reflecting the influence of linguistic and cultural factors on the portrayal of sentiment.

The findings of this study highlight the intricate interplay between translation, cultural norms, and emotional expression in literary works. It underscores the role of translation as a dynamic process that shapes and conceals sentiment, influencing readers’ emotional experiences and responses.

The study hopes to shed light on the phenomenon of sentiment disguise and contribute to a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in cross-cultural literary translation. It underscores the need for translators and scholars to be aware of how sentiment is conveyed and modified in different cultural contexts, ultimately enhancing the appreciation and interpretation of literary works across borders.

Jacobs, A. M., Herrmann, B., Lauer, G., Lüdtke, J., & Schroeder, S. (2020). Sentiment analysis of children and youth literature: is there a pollyanna effect? *Frontiers in psychology*, 11, 574746.

Mohammad, S. M., & Turney, P. D. (2013). Crowdsourcing a word–emotion association lexicon. *Computational intelligence*, 29(3), 436-465.

**Yanjin Liu**, an assistant professor at City University of Macau, holds a doctoral degree in Applied Language Sciences from Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Her research focuses on sentiment analysis, natural language processing, and descriptive translation studies, encompassing children's literature, corpus-based translation studies, and linguistic analysis.

## Global citizenship education and multilingual competences

TONY JOHNSTONE YOUNG

(Newcastle University, United Kingdom)

---

The Global Citizenship and Multilingual Competences toolkit is a European-Commission funded project with partners across Europe (GCMC, 2023; Mairi *et al*, 2023). Its aim is to provide online teacher development resources for secondary teachers of all subjects with which to help integrate global citizenship goals and plurilingual pedagogies into their practices in a sustainable way. This presentation focuses on GCMC's conceptual background and its co-productive development process involving a multidisciplinary group of educators and academics with interests in Global Citizenship Education (GCE), intercultural communication, second language acquisition and teacher development.

In the GCMC project, we define Global Citizenship (GC) as an awareness, caring, and embracing of cultural diversity while promoting social justice and sustainability, coupled with a sense of responsibility to act. GCE has become part of many international educational policies and appears explicitly in UNESCO's global or sustainable development goals (SDGs) for quality education. An appreciation of linguistic plurality and the integration of plurilingual pedagogies are core contributors to global citizenship, we argue. With this in mind the project aims to support teachers in developing their knowledge and skills about plurilingual pedagogies and to foster understandings of how to respect and utilize the linguistic resources learners and teachers may bring with them into the classroom.

Our hope is that the free online course and toolkit – the main product of the project to date - will inspire a large number of researchers, teachers and teacher educators with ideas about how to make global citizenship and plurilingual pedagogies of their regular practices. Progress towards UNESCO's SDGs depends on active, engaged future citizens who respect each other, appreciate diversity, and can work together as collaborators across cultures, languages and contexts.

GCMC (2023). The Global Citizenship and Multilingual Competences Toolkit. <https://gcmc.global/>.

Mairi, S., Gruber, J., Mercer, S., Schartner, A., Jan Ybema, J., Young T.J., & van der Meer, C., (2023) Teacher educators' perspectives on global citizenship education and multilingual competences, *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, DOI: [10.1080/01434632.2023.2170388](https://doi.org/10.1080/01434632.2023.2170388).

**Tony Johnstone Young**, PhD, is Professor of Applied Linguistics and Communication in the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences at Newcastle University in the north of England. He is a past President of the International Association of Language and Social Psychology.

---

## Youth language practices in Africa: a sociolinguistic insight from Malawi

HANNAH GIBSON<sup>1</sup>, COLIN REILLY<sup>2</sup> AND ELVIS RESCUE<sup>1</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>University of Essex, United Kingdom; <sup>2</sup>University of Stirling, Scotland, United Kingdom)

---

The phenomenon of youth languages (YLS) has gained scholarly attention since the late 1990s with some studies focusing on the contact situations that inform such language choices, how young people use highly creative ways to express their identity, and the microvariations that exist among YLS and ‘standard’ languages (cf. Dorleijn et al. 2020, Nassenstein & Hollington 2016, Kießling & Mous 2004). This paper focuses on sociolinguistic insights of YLS in Malawi exploring social aspects including the origin of the language, naming, speakers, perceptions, interlocutors and contexts of use, and motivations; and linguistic aspects including lexical variations. The data for the research include qualitative interviews and focus groups conducted in Malawi as part of the project on Microvariation and youth language practices in Africa, funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG) and Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). Based on thematic analysis (cf. Braun & Clarke 2019) and discourse analysis (cf. Cameron 2001), we uncover the social and linguistic insights of YLS and discuss how YLS are conceptualised within the context of use. We show that, like other African youth languages and beyond, the youth language used among young people in Malawi serves as a site for innovation and change with evidence of creative manipulation and the use of linguistic creativity and ephemeral vocabulary.

Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2019). Reflecting on reflexive thematic analysis. *Qualitative research in sport, exercise and health*, 11(4), 589-597.

Cameron, D. (2001). *Working with spoken discourse*. Sage.

Dorleijn, M., Kossmann, M.G. & Nortier, J.M. (2020). ‘Urban youth speech styles in multilingual settings.’ In: Adamou E. & Matras Y. (Eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Language Contact*. Abingdon and New York: Routledge. 366-382.

Kießling, Roland & Maarten Mous. (2004). ‘Urban youth languages in Africa’. *Anthropological Linguistics*, 46 (3), 303-341.

Nassenstein, N., & Hollington, A. (2016). Global repertoires and urban fluidity: Youth languages in Africa. *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*, 242, 171-193.

I am **Hannah Gibson** (PhD) a Professor of Linguistics who teaches a range of modules in the Department of Language and Linguistics, University of Essex. My research interests are linguistic variation, syntax and semantics of the Bantu languages, language and identity, language use in urban contexts and linguistics and social justice.

I am **Colin Reilly** (PhD) a Lecturer in Linguistics at the Department of Literature and Languages, University of Stirling. My research focuses on multilingualism and language policy within Sub-Saharan Africa, translanguaging, and linguistic ethnography. I am particularly interested in exploring ways in which translanguaging can engage with language policy and planning.

I am **Elvis ResCue** (PhD) a Senior Research Officer at the Department of Language and Linguistics, University of Essex. My research interests are in linguistic theory, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, language and identity, African language and literature, language policy and planning, and media and communication.

---

## Redefining the role of foreign language teachers in the age of artificial intelligence: A student perspective

DANIJELA VRANJEŠ, KRISTINA KRČMAREVIĆ AND MARKO PETRIĆ

(University of Belgrade, Serbia)

---

Recent developments in artificial intelligence (AI) have significantly impacted education, particularly foreign language teaching methods (Hong, 2023; Mohamed, 2023; Rajest et al, 2023). Increasing concerns and an ever-present fear persist in the field because the obsolescence of foreign language (FL) teachers, as well as translators, is perceived as a possibility in the foreseeable future (within the next 10-15 years). Additionally, it is argued that FL teachers, if they do not face extinction, will face severe challenges and their role in the classroom will change. Consequently, the paper aims to explore the perspectives of students, who are educated to become FL teachers, regarding the evolving role of FL teachers in the foreseeable future, with a specific emphasis on the integration of different digital tools and AI in instructional settings. The participants comprise students enrolled at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, Serbia. Employing a two-part questionnaire, the research examines students' current views on FL teaching and learning, as well as their projections for the role of FL teachers in the foreseeable future. Anticipated results suggest not only limited current utilization of AI in classrooms but also a general reluctance among students toward AI being used in classrooms. Despite that, it is hypothesized that students do recognize the inevitable evolution of teachers' role as information providers in response to technological advancements. Importantly, students are of the opinion that AI can never fully replace teachers but acknowledge the necessity for FL teachers to adapt to changing educational landscapes. Therefore, this study aims to derive practical implications for FL teaching from obtained results.

Hong, W. C. H. (2023). The impact of ChatGPT on foreign language teaching and learning: opportunities in education and research. *Journal of Educational Technology and Innovation*, 5(1), 37-45.

Mohamed, A. M. (2024). Exploring the potential of an AI-based Chatbot (ChatGPT) in enhancing English as a Foreign Language (EFL) teaching: perceptions of EFL Faculty Members. *Education and Information Technologies*, 29, 3195–3217. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10639-023-11917-z>

Rajest, S. S., Regin, R., Ajitha, Y., Paramasivan, P., Christabel, G. J. A., & Shynu, T. (2023). The Analysis of How Artificial Intelligence Has an Effect on Teachers and The Education System. *EAI Endorsed Transactions on e-Learning*, 9(4), 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.4108/eetel.3494>

**Danijela Vranješ** is a teaching assistant and a PhD candidate at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philology. She is a teacher trainer for future foreign language teachers. Her research focusses on the development of the writing skill in a foreign language as well as on the use of digital and AI tools in foreign language teaching.

**Kristina Krčmarević** is a teaching assistant and a PhD candidate at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philology. She teaches Pragmatics and text linguistics courses as well as language for specific purposes (Business communication and language in management). The main focus of her research are the characteristics of business German in digital media.

**Marko Petrić** is a lecturer and a PhD candidate at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philology. He teaches Contemporary Danish, as well as Morphology, Word formation, and Lexicology of the Scandinavian languages. The focus of his research is Scandinavian and Danish studies.

---

## **The effects of strict language policies on hearer perceptions of the speakers: Language attitudes towards Kurdish speakers in Turkey**

BUSRA TASDEMIR<sup>1</sup> AND SHANNON MCCROCKLIN<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>York University, Canada; <sup>2</sup>Southern Illinois University, United States)

---

This study examines language attitudes towards a minority group of speakers in a specific context where strict language policies have been implemented. The goal of the study is to understand how these policies and standard language ideologies influence the perception of minority speakers. Specifically, the study adopts a mixed-methods methodology to investigate the attitudes of standard- accented Turkish speakers towards non-standard Kurdish accented speakers of Turkish in Turkey. The data was collected from 50 Turkish participants of different ages who completed a survey and had the option to participate in an interview. In the survey, which was designed using a matched guise technique, participants evaluated speakers with different a variety of accents (fillers), and a Kurdish- accented speaker (guise) who was recorded in both standard and non-standard accented Turkish. Additionally, 13 respondents were interviewed to explore their language ideologies and to understand the quantitative data in depth. The results indicate that the Kurdish- accented speaker received the lowest scores among all the speakers in the survey and was perceived negatively in all categories such as pleasantness, correctness, educatedness and trustworthiness. However, when the same speaker performed was evaluated in the standard accent, the ratings drastically increased. The shift from the nonstandard Kurdish accent to of the standard accent also influenced how respondents identified the speaker's ethnicity as they identified the Kurdish speaker as "Kurdish" when hearing the non-standard accent and as "Turkish" when hearing the standard accent. During the interviews, presence of a "one nation-one language" ideology was observed, which is promoted in the country through education and media.

**Busra Tasdemir** is a PhD student in Linguistics at York University's Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics. Her research explores language attitudes, ethnolinguistic variation, and linguistic discrimination.

**Shannon McCrocklin** is an associate professor in the School of Languages and Linguistics at Southern Illinois University. Her research focuses on acquisition of second language phonology, including socio-cultural facets of accent.

## Panel 2 (Room M-648)

---

### Psychological topics and concerns as participant orientations

ANN WEATHERALL

(University of Bedfordshire, United Kingdom)

---

People interacting with each other is fundamental to human sociality and a germane site for studies in language and social psychology. This panel brings scholars from a range of disciplines across the humanities and social sciences who examine social interaction in mundane, institutional and professional settings drawing on conversation analytic and ethnomethodological theory and methods where language, in its broadest sense is examined in its ecological niche of social interaction. It will show how diverse problems and a broad range of psychological topics and concerns can be approached as actions made visible through the structures that organize conversation and via parties' orientations to relevant matters. Cognition, emotion, identity, learning and sensations are among the topics that are addressed by contributors with concerns including caring, physical and mental health, helping, sustainability and violence.

**Ann Weatherall:** A professor in Psychology at the University of Bedfordshire UK. Her work develops knowledge from discursive and feminist perspective to study issues at the heart of social psychology. She is currently addressing the pervasive problem of violence against women and girls.

---

## Exploring interaction and social sustainability: the case of 360-degree video recordings

STINA ERICSSON<sup>1</sup> AND PER-OLOF HEDVALL<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>University of Gothenburg, Sweden; <sup>2</sup>Mid Sweden University & Lund University)

---

Since the 1970s, Interactional Linguistics has provided a rich body of knowledge on human interaction using audio and video recordings (e.g., Goodwin 1979, 2018; Keevallik *et al.* 2023; Mondada 2018a). However, Interactional Linguistics has yet to include a sophisticated understanding of artefacts, e.g., their genesis and impact, which is precisely what Design research (Redström 2017) provides.

In this paper, we combine linguistics and design research to analyse people's interaction in and with the designed and built environment of the city, which here is used as an example of society's ambitions and possibilities regarding social sustainability. For instance, an entrance consisting of stairs or a substantial level difference without a ramp is a brutal way of designing for only a subset of humanity. In contrast, a ramp together with stairs may enable participation, but it may separate people from each other and disrupt interaction. This is an example of the micro-level mechanics of what the city does to people. Those with the most power routinely reap most of the benefits of new design solutions, while others are harmed.

Using newly developed and cheaply available 360-degree video cameras and recording how groups of people move around the city, we address the following research question: How can 360-degree video recordings be used to explore social sustainability through interaction in urban space?

A 360 camera enables the easy capturing of highly complex data, including movement, posture, gesture, gaze, and positions of all participants, speech and other sounds, and properties of the designed environment and the effects these have. Using a combination of transcription and data analysis from Multimodal Interaction Analysis (Mondada 2018b) and methods from Speculative Design (Dunne & Raby 2013) for exploring alternative futures, we point at some ways in which social sustainability can be explored, and possibly achieved, through interaction.

Dunne, A., & Raby, F. (2013). *Speculative Everything: Design, Fiction, and Social Dreaming*. The MIT Press.

Goodwin, C. (1979). The interactive construction of a sentence in natural conversation. In G. Psathas (Ed.), *Everyday Language: Studies in Ethnomethodology* (pp. 97–121). Irvington Publishers.

Goodwin, C. (2018). *Co-Operative Action*. Cambridge University Press.

Keevallik, L., Hofstetter, E., Weatherall, A., & Wiggins, S. (2023). Sounding others' sensation in interaction. *Discourse Processes*, 60(1), 73–91.

Mondada, L. (2018a). Greetings as a device to find out and establish the language of service encounters in multilingual settings. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 126, 10–28.

Mondada, L. (2018b). Multiple temporalities of language and body in interaction: challenges for transcribing multimodality. *Research on Language and Social Interaction*, 51(1), 85–106.

Redström, J. (2017). *Making design theory*. The MIT Press.

**Stina Ericsson:** A Professor of Swedish with a Focus on Sociolinguistics and Interaction at the University of Gothenburg. Her main body of research concerns norms and categorisations in interaction, using multimodal methods and materials. Together with Hedvall she is the PI of the *Syntax of Equality* project.

**Per-Olof Hedvall:** A Professor in Design at Mid Sweden University and Associate Professor in Rehabilitation Engineering at Lund University. Hedvall's research deals with Accessibility, Participation, and Universal Design, mainly focusing on norms and categorisations in design and how to create categorisations that do not lead to inequality and stigma.

---

## Managing affect in health care encounters with patients and their companions

JOHANNA RUUSUVUORI AND JUHANA MUSTAKALLIO  
(Tampere University, Finland)

---

Affect is rarely overtly verbalized or displayed in human interaction. Rather, affect becomes observable through various embodied cues, such as body positions, facial gestures, prosody, etc. In institutional encounters, such as medical consultations, affective displays are usually normatively organized, that is they are adjusted to the phase of the ongoing institutional task (Heath, 1989). However, in some occasions, such as when fear or pain is induced by the necessary medical diagnosis or procedure, more prominent displays of affect may occur ‘out of play’ that is in disalignment with the ongoing activity.

The presentation answers the research question: how do professionals manage affective disalignments from the institutional activity with the help of examples from neurological consultations where a difficult diagnosis is delivered or negotiated, and from general practice consultations with children with upper respiratory tract symptoms. In each type of consultation, a companion or a parent is present and takes part in the conversation. The presentation describes embodied and verbal practices through which professionals are able to a) validate the affective display of the patient or the companion, and yet continue with their ongoing institutional task, and b) manage the possibly divergent stances of the patient and the companion in the situation. To conclude, the role of ‘embodied knowledge’ (Streeck 2009, 70) in managing the disalignments with adults vs. child patients will be discussed.

The method used is multimodal conversation analysis. The data consist of 15 neurological consultations and 32 child patient consultations.

Heath, Christian. 1989. Pain Talk: The Expression of suffering in the Medical Consultation. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, Vol. 52. No. 2. p. 113–125.

Streeck, Jürgen. 2009 Forward-Gesturing. *Discourse Processes*. Vol. 46. No. 2-3. p. 161-179.

**Johanna Ruusuvuori:** A professor in social psychology at Tampere University. She has published on social interaction between professionals and clients in various institutional settings, including performance appraisal interviews, medical consultations and technology mediated social and health care.

**Juhana Mustakallio:** A PhD Researcher in the Tampere University, focusing on embodied interaction and affects in healthcare encounters. His current interests are touch in interaction, doctor’s embodied empathy and difficult and delicate interactional sequences in medical consultations.

---

## The social psychology of helplessness: Managing interactional challenges when people seek help for suicidal others

CLARA IVERSEN<sup>1</sup> AND HEIDI KEVOE-FELDMAN<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>Uppsala University, Sweden; <sup>2</sup>Northeastern University, United States)

---

**Background:** Social psychologists in discursive psychology have demonstrated that help-seeking is a fruitful area for understanding how people relate to one another and the world (Tennent, 2021; Weatherall & Stubbe, 2015). **Research question:** By investigating how people seek help for others in suicide preventive telephone services, the current study draws on and contributes to this research. **Method:** The paper uses conversation analysis to examine third party calls to a crisis helpline, with emergency calls as a point of comparison. **Results:** We show how participants' orientations to uncertainty as an object-side or subject-side stance (cf. Edwards & Potter, 2017) – a focus on the at-risk person or the caller's experiences – become an essential challenge as callers and call-takers navigate "whom to help." While dispatchers at emergency centers work to get pertinent information to send help, thus focusing on the at-risk person, call-takers at the crisis helpline are trained to offer emotional support. In the latter case, displays of uncertainty are vital elements of helplessness that demonstrate the serious situation for the person at-risk but it is also a subjective stance that might warrant reassurance. **Conclusions:** In showing this, the paper contributes to research on the practical accomplishment of subjectivity and objectivity and demonstrates the utility of this framework in suicide prevention.

Edwards, D. & Potter, J. (2017). Some uses of subject-side assessments. *Discourse Studies*, 19(5): 497-514.

Tennent, E. (2021a). 'I'm calling in regard to my son': Entitlement, obligation, and opportunity to seek help for others. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 60(3), 870-887.

Weatherall, A. & Stubbe, M. (2015). Emotions in action: Telephone-mediated dispute resolution. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 54(2): 273-290.

**Clara Iversen:** An Associate Professor in sociology at Uppsala University. Her background is in social psychology and her research interests concern how participants in social and health care encounters manage shared understanding. She is currently working with research on helpline interaction and interaction between people and social robots.

**Heidi K. Feldman:** An Associate Professor at Northeastern University. Her research spans across various call centers from customer service to 911 emergency call centers on subjects ranging from crisis talk to overcoming barriers in interaction and action design in institutional and ordinary talk.

---

## **Persistence and sensitivity in transition job search: Critical discursive psychological perspective on interaction in mental health rehabilitation**

MIIRA NISKA<sup>1</sup>, SAARA HEIKKILÄ<sup>2</sup>, MELISA STEVANOVIC<sup>2</sup> AND ELINA WEISTE<sup>3</sup>  
(<sup>1</sup>University of Helsinki, <sup>2</sup>Tampere University, <sup>3</sup>Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland)

---

The unemployment of mental health rehabilitees is a major societal problem. Mental health problems increase the risk of unemployment mainly because employers are reluctant to hire mental health rehabilitees. Mental health services, like the international Clubhouse organization, play an important role in advancing their clients' re-entry to the labour market. In this study, we adopt the perspective of critical discursive psychology, which draws on conversation analysis and post-structuralism, to investigate how Clubhouse staff members construct conflicting versions of ideal job search process and negotiate over these versions. The data consist of 26 videotaped group meetings which took place in one Finnish Clubhouse. In the meetings, the Clubhouse staff and the mental health rehabilitees discussed the ways in which potential employers should be contacted. In the study, we demonstrate that while talking about mental health rehabilitees job search the staff members use two contradictory interpretative repertoires: "the persistent contacting repertoire" and "the sensitive sales work repertoire". According to the first repertoire, the aim is to "wear down" employers through hardy and constant contacts. According to the second repertoire, the aim is to identify potential partners tactfully and discreetly from non-potential ones. Tension, or ideological dilemma, is built between these two contradictory repertoires. The study contributes to an improved understanding of the interactional challenges faced while aiming to reintegrate mental health rehabilitees into the labour market.

**Miira Niska:** PhD, docent, and university senior lecturer in social psychology at the University of Helsinki. Her research interests include work transitions, agency, entrepreneurship, and qualitative methodologies and research methods.

**Saara Heikkilä:** Graduated in the spring of 2023 with a master's degree in social sciences, majoring in social psychology. She has also knowledge of psychology, economics, and management of occupational well-being.

**Melisa Stevanovic:** PhD, docent, and associate professor in social psychology at Tampere University. She has investigated joint decision-making, power, and authority in both naturally occurring interactions and experimental settings.

**Elina Weiste:** PhD and docent in clinical interaction. She examines service encounters in health care and counseling in different types of contexts, such as mental health rehabilitation, occupational health care, occupational therapy and group counseling.

## Communicating Hawaiian identity: Understanding Hawaiian cultural identity through themes in family narratives

SANOE BURGESS-LYMAN AND AMY EBESU HUBBARD  
(University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, USA)

Our perspectives on cultural identities play a pivotal role in our lives, from our everyday conversations to social and political conflicts. Understanding cultural identities can aid in addressing societal issues, establishing culturally appropriate behavior, and engaging in intercultural communication. Some approaches to understanding Hawaiian cultural identity include using aspects of physiognomy, blood quantum percentages, and engagement in customs, beliefs, and language to determine cultural belonging. However, these approaches have logistical and practical challenges and do not align well with traditional Hawaiian epistemology (Kauanui, 2008; Ledward, 2007).

An approach that does a better job of addressing these concerns and has stronger external validity is family narratives. Given that the family unit is the primary place of learning culture (Ting-Toomey, 2005), narratives told by family members can provide a glimpse into what shapes an individual's cultural identity. This is especially relevant to understanding Hawaiian identity because it follows Hawaiian traditions of orally transmitting knowledge and prioritizing family (Pukui et al., 1972). Thus, this study considered common themes in family mo'olelo, such as stories, proverbs, and expressions that shape Hawaiian identity, and tested for differences in cultural affiliation associated with these themes.

Using a qualitative semi-structured interview method, memorable family narratives among a group of 40 self-identified Native Hawaiians were gathered. Participants also completed a cultural affiliation questionnaire. Narratives were audio recorded, transcribed, and coded. This process resulted in a total of seven themes labeled: *Kuleana*, *Aloha*, *'Ōlelo Hawai'i*, *Mahalo*, *Mea Kalakupua*, *Koko*, and *Kapu*. The two most prevalent themes were:

- (1) *Kuleana*, adhering to one's roles and responsibilities according to status established by kūpuna and 'āina and
- (2) *Aloha*, the obligation to enact kindness beyond the self. *Mahalo*, gratitude, was associated with differences in reported cultural affiliation. Results reinforce the importance of sharing mo'olelo in families and offer family narratives as a useful approach to understanding Hawaiian cultural identity.

Kauanui, J. K. (2008). *Hawaiian blood: Colonialism and the politics of sovereignty and indigeneity*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Ledward, B. C. (2007). On being Hawaiian enough: Contesting American racialization with Native hybridity. In S. M. Kana'iaupuni (Ed.) *Hūlili: Multidisciplinary research on Hawaiian well-being* (pp. 107–143). Honolulu, HI: Pauahi Publications.

Pukui, M. K., Haertig, E. W., & Lee, C. A. (1972). *Nana i ke kumu: Look to the source (Vol. 1)*. Honolulu, HI: Hui Hanai.

Ting-Toomey, S. (2005). Identity negotiation theory: Crossing cultural boundaries. In W. B. Gudykunst (Eds.) *Theorizing about intercultural communication* (pp. 211–233). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc.

**Sanoe Burgess-Lyman** (M.A., 2020, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa) is a doctoral student in the Communication and Information Sciences Program, and a graduate research assistant and lecturer in the Communicology Program in the School of Communication and Information at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

**Amy S. Ebesu Hubbard** (Ph.D., 1996, University of Arizona) is a professor in the Communicology Program in the School of Communication and Information at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

---

## Family language policy in Asian-Polish families in Poland

NATIKA PUTHRAN

(Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland)

---

As a new emerging field of research, Family Language Policy (FLP) focuses on explicit language planning within households, offering an integrated overview of language management, learning, and negotiation within family contexts. One of the objectives of my current doctoral research is to study FLP in Asian-Polish families residing in Poland with special focus on what determines the choice of language that parents use at home and their preferred strategies to maintain bi/multilingualism at home. Mixed Asian-Polish families were specifically chosen since Asian (Chinese, Indian, Indonesian) and Polish linguistic practices, as well as attitudes towards multilingualism differ considerably from one another. Furthermore, this specific combination of families in Poland has not been researched.

From this standpoint, this study seeks gain insight into cultural differences regarding heritage language use, attitudes towards multilingualism and cultural heritage management within the household. To investigate this, a questionnaire was prepared that collected initial data. Subsequently, 17 semi-structured interviews were conducted, out of which 10 couples belong to the target group. These families include 3 Chinese-Polish, 4 Indian-Polish and 3 Indonesian-Polish couples. The preliminary findings suggest that preferred language strategy of most families is one person one language (OPOL). However, some families have strict rules when it comes to one parent using only one language, while other families are more relaxed, where a parent may choose to switch between two or more languages. Most family's strategies evolved over time.

When it comes to the choice of language, Chinese & Indonesian parents encourage the national language over regional languages or dialects. Indian parents on the other hand tend to prefer transmitting the language they grew up speaking at home. Most parents choose bigger languages hoping that the children will be able to communicate easily with people in and around the country and family 'back home'.

King, K., Fogle, L., & Logan-Terry, A. (2008) Family language policy. *Language and Linguistics Compass*, 2(5), 907-922.

Mikulska, A. (2021) Chinese Migration in Poland - An Attempt to Characterize the Migrant Group, Including the Cultural and Educational Perspective of the Young Generation. *Cognitive Studies/ Études Cognitives*, 2021(21), 2467.

Servaes, J. (2000) Reflections on the differences in Asian and European Values and Communication Modes, *Asian Journal of Communication*, 10 (2), 53-70.

**Natika Puthran**, Ph.D. candidate at Adam Mickiewicz University, holds M.A. degrees in English (University of Mumbai) and Empirical Linguistics (Adam Mickiewicz University). From Mumbai's multilingual environment to Poland's monolingualism, she delves into cultural and linguistic contrasts, driving her research on family language policy. Her interests encompass code-switching, language documentation, nonstandard dialects, and technology in language teaching.

---

**The influence of maternal psychological control and family communication patterns on youth depression in Hungary and China**

XIAOXIA LI AND YAN BING ZHANG

(University of Kansas, United States)

---

According to a recent report by the World Health Organization (2017), around 4.4% people suffered from depression worldwide; moreover, depression is a major contributor to disability and suicide deaths. Past studies have indicated that maternal psychological control (MPC) and family communication patterns (FCP, conformity-oriented and conversation-orientated family communication) are critical factors associated with offspring's depressive symptoms (Frazer & Fite, 2016; Zhou et al., 2023). Parents, especially mothers, are primary caregivers for their children and play an important role in fostering a healthy family environment. However, to our best knowledge, the relationship between MPC and FCP, as well as the mediating role of FCP on the association between MPC and young adults' depression are unclear. Moreover, cultural contexts affect parental beliefs, behaviors, and outcomes (Lansford, 2022). Examining family dynamics in an Asian culture and a Central and Eastern culture enriches our understanding of the associations between MPC, family interactions, and offspring mental wellbeing. Contributing to extant research, we examined the direct and indirect associations, through family communication patterns, between maternal psychological control and youth depression. The results revealed that MPC had a significant positive indirect effect on depression through conversation orientation. Moreover, MPC was positively associated with conformity orientation and depression directly, while the indirect association between MPC and depression through conformity orientation was nonsignificant. Furthermore, although Chinese young adults reported a higher level of maternal psychological control, family conformity orientation, and depression than their Hungarian counterparts did, culture was a nonsignificant moderator of the associations between MPC and depression. These findings underscore the significant role that mother plays in shaping the overall family communication, which consequently has profound influence on young adults' mental well-being. Additionally, this study provided a first glance at the cross-cultural comparison of FCP, MPC, and depression in East Central European and Chinese cultural contexts.

Frazer, A. L., & Fite, P. J. (2016). Maternal psychological control, use of supportive parenting, and childhood depressive symptoms. *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, 47, 384–396. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10578-015-0573-8>

Lansford, J. E. (2022). Annual research review: Cross-cultural similarities and differences in parenting. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 63(4), 466–479. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.13539>

World Health Organization. (2017). *Depression and other common mental disorders*. (No. WHO/MSD/MER/2017.2). World Health Organization.

Zhou, H. Y., Zhu, W. Q., Xiao, W. Y., Huang, Y. T., Ju, K., Zheng, H., & Yan, C. (2023). Feeling unloved is the most robust sign of adolescent depression linking to family communication patterns. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 33(2), 418–430. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jora.12813>

**Xiaoxia Li:** A first-year doctoral student in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Kansas. Her research interests lie at the intersection of interpersonal communication, intercultural communication, and mental well-being.

**Yan Bing Zhang:** A Professor of Intergroup and Intercultural Communication in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Kansas. She studies the intergroup processes between communication, relationships, social cognition of age and culture, and identity in face-to-face and mediated contexts.

---

## Transnational families: Family language policy and socio-emotional well-being

SVIATLANA KARPAVA<sup>1</sup> AND ANASTASSIA ZABRODSKAJA<sup>2</sup>  
(<sup>1</sup>University of Cyprus, Cyprus; <sup>2</sup>Tallinn University, Estonia)

---

According to Bryceson (2019), Lam and Yeoh (2019), family maintenance, care and formation, political justice and economic well-being are crucial factors influencing transnational movement. The present study aims to examine the Family Language Policies (FLPs) of transnational families (TNFs), building upon the research initiated by Hirsch and Lee (2018). They conducted a systematic literature review of peer-reviewed academic articles that focused on physical geographic moves, families, and one or more components of FLP, including ideologies, management, and/or practices.

The authors will present the results of the scoping/literature review on TNFs, focusing on FLP, socio-emotional well-being and research methodology. This work is part of the international network collaboration of the COST Action CA21143 - Transnational Family Dynamics in Europe (TraFaDy). Specifically, the authors are actively involved in two working groups: WG1, which explores kinkeeping within TNFs in a global and digital era, and WG5, which addresses methodological issues in TNF research and data collection, fostering interdisciplinary communication.

The researchers conducted a scoping review on the aforementioned topic following Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) model. The literature review focused on recent articles in the field (2018-2023), aligning with the scope and objectives of WG1 and WG5, which served as the inclusion criteria. The choice of a scoping literature review relates from its significance in educational research, involving processes of identification, synthesis, and assessment to provide a reliable and critical response to research questions. A systematic review offers a synthesis of the current state of knowledge in the field of TNFs, enabling the identification of future research priorities. Additionally, it addresses questions that individual studies may not answer, helping to identify issues in primary research that require attention in future studies. Moreover, it contributes to the generation and or evaluation of theories, explaining how or why certain phenomena occur.

Bryceson, D.F. (2019). "Transnational Families Negotiating Migration and Care Life Cycles Across Nation-State Borders." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 45 (16): 3042-3064. doi:10.1080/1369183X.2018.1547017

Lam, T., and B.S.A. Yeoh. (2019). "Parental Migration and Disruptions in Everyday Life: Reactions of Left-Behind Children in Southeast Asia." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 45 (16): 3085-3104. doi:10.1080/1369183X.2018.1547022.

Tijana Hirsch & Jin Sook Lee (2018): Understanding the complexities of transnational family language policy. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, DOI:10.1080/01434632.2018.1454454

**Sviatlana Karpava** (PhD) is a Lecturer in Applied Linguistics/TESOL and Linguistics Section Coordinator at the Department of English Studies, University of Cyprus.

**Anastassia Zabrodskaja** (PhD) is a Professor of Intercultural Communication at Tallinn University, Baltic Film, Media and Arts School.

## English and social mobility: Accounts from Cambodia

EVANGELINE LIN

(National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

---

English is widely regarded as the global language of communication, often leading to views of English skills as necessary for global competitiveness and an important gateway to opportunities and social mobility. While there has been research to support this positive role that English plays (e.g. Erling et al., 2013; Schneider, 2016), it has also been argued that unequal value is afforded to ‘standard’ and ‘non-standard’ varieties of English (e.g. Saraceni et al., 2021; Tupas, 2015), privileging or marginalising users of such varieties, respectively. Users of ‘non-standard’ varieties are often those from less privileged backgrounds who face social inequalities that limit their access and means to acquiring ‘standard’ varieties and, consequently, social mobility. However, much of the existing literature in this area is largely derived from the perspectives of the elite, educated, and scholars, most of whom are themselves users of ‘standard’ Englishes.

My study addresses three questions from the first-hand perspectives of users of ‘non-standard’ Englishes - individuals from less privileged backgrounds in Cambodia: (1) What factors do these individuals perceive to impact their English language learning and use? (2) What perceived varieties of English do they consider to be part of their linguistic repertoire? (3) How do they perceive their use of particular varieties of English to impact their job opportunities, goals and ambitions, and overall lives? Using data collected from observations, interviews, and documents and artefacts, I present the life stories of these individuals in a narrative analysis. I also conduct an individual and cross-participant analysis of narratives on the data.

While my study is still ongoing, preliminary analyses suggest that the English language abilities of these individuals have significantly paved the way for their social mobility. However, for them to truly advance in the social world and status, a greater proficiency and acquisition of a more ‘standard’ English will likely be required.

Erling, E. J., Hamid, M. O., & Seargeant, P. (2013). Grassroots attitudes to English as a language for international development in Bangladesh. In E. J. Erling & P. Seargeant (Eds.), *English and development: Policy, pedagogy and globalization* (pp. 88-110). *Multilingual Matters*.

Saraceni, M., Rubdy, R., & Tupas, R. (2021). Introduction. In R. Rubdy & R. Tupas (Eds.), *Volume 2: Ideologies* (pp. 1-6). *Bloomsbury*.

Schneider, E. W. (2016). Grassroots Englishes in tourism interactions. *English Today*, 32(3), 2-10.

Tupas, R. (Ed.). (2015). *Unequal Englishes*. *Palgrave Macmillan*.

**Evangeline Lin** is a 4th year PhD student at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Her research on English and social mobility was piqued by the four years she spent teaching English and working amongst underprivileged communities in Cambodia.

---

## Code-mixing in promotional materials for tourism: Effects of format on processing fluency and interest in tourism activities

JESSICA GASIOREK<sup>1</sup> AND MARKO DRAGOJEVIC<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, United States; <sup>2</sup>University of Kentucky, United States)

---

This study examined the effects of code-mixing in promotional materials for tourist activities on non-local audiences' message processing and interest in the activities promoted. It also tested whether these outcomes depended on the format in which translations for code-mixed phrases were presented. In this context, code-mixing – which involves using two or more languages or “codes” in a single stretch of discourse (Mahootian, 2006) – can both highlight the presence of different social identities and cultures (Giles & Watson, 2013) and affect how easily people process the code-mixed messages they encounter (Gasiorek & Dragojevic, 2023). Code-mixing in promotional materials for tourism is a particularly interesting context because such materials typically target non-local audiences who often do not know the local language(s) used in code-mixing.

A quantitative experiment (N = 253 U.S. adults) drawing from publicly available online materials promoting tourist activities in Hawai'i compared the effects of different versions of English-Hawaiian code-mixing (i.e., none, code-mixing without translations, code-mixing with parenthetical translations, and code-mixing with narrative translations) on non-local audiences' processing fluency and self-reported interest in the advertised activities. We found that compared to English-only texts, the use of code-mixing (a) without translations and (b) with parenthetical translations both disrupted fluency for potential tourists – which indirectly diminished interest – and boosted their interest in advertised cultural activities. These countervailing effects offset each other, ultimately resulting in interest levels that did not differ from English-only materials. Materials that included narrative translations for code-mixed terms did not significantly reduce processing fluency (relative to English-only texts), but did – like other forms of code-mixing – promote interest, ultimately prompting greater interest in advertised tourist activities than English-only texts. Theoretical and practical implications of these findings will be discussed.

Gasiorek, J., & Dragojevic, M. (2023). Effects of written code-mixing on processing fluency and perceptions of organizational inclusiveness. *Communication Monographs*, 90(3), 393–413. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03637751.2023.2202749>

Giles, H., & Watson, B. M. (Eds.). (2013). *The social meaning of language, dialect and accent: International perspectives on speech styles*. Peter Lang.

Mahootian, S. (2006). Code-switching and mixing. In K. Brown (ed.) *Encyclopedia of language and linguistics* (pp. 511-527). Elsevier.

**Jessica Gasiorek** (Ph.D, University of California, Santa Barbara) is a Professor in the Communicology Program in the School of Communication and Information at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Her research examines understanding, communication accommodation, and communication and aging.

**Marko Dragojevic** (Ph.D, University of California, Santa Barbara), is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication, University of Kentucky. His research examines language attitudes, processing fluency, and intergroup communication.

## Session 6 (Room M-342)

### Effects of using “Spanglish” in university materials for Latinx and Non-Latinx students in the Southwestern United States

MARGARET J. PITTS<sup>1</sup>, JESSICA GASIOREK<sup>2</sup> AND MARKO DRAGOJEVIC<sup>3</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>University of Arizona, United States; <sup>2</sup>University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, United States; <sup>3</sup>University of Kentucky, United States)

There is increased attention in U.S. higher education to issues related to equity, inclusion, and diversity. However, very little of that focus has been on language variation and the linguistic climate within university settings that promote or hinder learning and inclusion (Holliday & Squires, 2020). Language can make ethnic social identities salient (Giles & Watson, 2013), and code-mixing (Mahootian, 2006) is one way that people can accomplish this, particularly in multicultural communities (Yim & Clément, 2021). “Spanglish”, the mixing of English and Spanish words together in the same phrase or sentence, is one example, and is a common linguistic practice in the southwestern U.S., where there is a sizable Latinx population.

The goal of this study is to examine how students from different backgrounds (i.e., Latinx and non-Latinx) at a Hispanic-Serving U.S. university respond to the use of English-Spanish code-mixing in materials related to university programs and services. Specifically, we examine the effects of code-mixing on students’ self-reported ease of reading these materials (i.e., processing fluency) and the extent to which dominant majority and non-dominant majority/minority students perceived the fictional program as welcoming to them or people like them.

We are conducting an online experiment in which students read samples of (fictional) university materials promoting new programs. Participants (to date, n = 365) are randomly assigned to one of three versions: English-only, Spanglish with parenthetical translations of Spanish words, or Spanglish without translations. Data collection, particularly to better represent the local Latinx population, is in progress. However, preliminary analyses suggest a marginal interaction between code-mixing condition and Latinx identity, such that students who identify as Latinx report marginally higher processing fluency and marginally higher feelings of being welcome in the program for Spanglish materials than non-Latinx students, but there is no difference between groups in these outcomes for English-only materials.

Giles, H., & Watson, B. (2013). *The social meanings of language, dialect and accent: international perspectives on speech styles*. Peter Lang.

Holliday, N. R., & Squires, L. (2020). Sociolinguistic labor, linguistic climate, and race(ism) on campus: Black college students’ experiences with language at predominantly white institutions. *Journal of Sociolinguistics*, 25, 418-437. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josl.12438>

Mahootian, S. (2006). Code-switching and mixing. In K. Brown (ed.) *Encyclopedia of language and linguistics* (pp. 511-527). Elsevier.

Yim, O., & Clément, R. (2021). Acculturation and attitudes toward code-switching: A bidimensional framework. *International Journal of Bilingualism*, 25(5), 1369-1388.

**Margaret J. Pitts** is Senior Associate Dean of the Graduate College and Associate Professor of Communication at the University of Arizona, USA.

**Jessica Gasiorek** is Professor and Graduate Chair of the Communicology Program at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, USA.

**Marko Dragojevic** is Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Kentucky, USA.

---

## The influence of English on Lithuanian in social network Facebook

EGLĖ GUDAVIČIENĖ

(Vilnius University, Lithuania)

---

Code-switching is not only a linguistic phenomenon but also a socio-cultural one, depending on the context, linguistic attitudes, the social role of the speaker and other factors. Globalisation has led to the need for bilingualism, with English becoming the lingua franca. In 2023, English was the most used language on the Internet (Petrosyan, 2023). This presentation analyses the linguistic behaviour of Lithuanians on Facebook: who tends to use English, what elements of English they use, and in what cases they switch from Lithuanian to English in their posts. Posts by public figures and private individuals will be analysed to see in which cases English appears: words, phrases, idioms, sentence fragments or complete sentences are used. The research material was collected from the social network Facebook. Based on social roles (ministers, politicians, influencers, journalists, private individuals), the Facebook accounts of 10 people (5 men and 5 women) were selected and their posts published between 2020 and 2024 were analysed. The aim is to determine and describe how Lithuanian is being switched into English and what trends in usage can be observed. The theoretical framework of this study is based on bilingual strategies (Muysken, 1995, 2000). The matrix language frame model (Myers-Scotton, 2001) is also relevant to the analysis. The research shows that Lithuanians take their status into account when writing posts. The posts of state officials are mainly in Lithuanian. Influencers, journalists and private individuals may either not use English words at all or use them more or less in their posts. Possible reasons for the linguistic behaviour are explained, partly in relation to the status of the person and the legislation governing his/her linguistic behaviour, linguistic attitudes, the content of the post, the addressee, etc. Although Facebook is a social network where people's language is not restricted by strict rules, the influence of the English language is noticeable, but quite moderate.

Petrosyan, A. (2023, February 24). Internet: Most common languages online 2023. Statista. Retrieved October 31, 2023. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/262946/share-of-the-most-common-languages-on-the-internet>

Muysken, P. (1995). Code-switching and grammatical theory. In L. Milroy & P. Muysken (Eds.), *One Speaker, Two Languages: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives on Code-Switching* (pp. 177-198). Cambridge University Press.

Muysken, P. (2000). *Bilingual Speech: A Typology of Code-Mixing*. Cambridge University Press.

Myers-Scotton, C. (2001). The matrix language frame model: Developments and responses. In R. Jacobson (Ed.), (pp. 23-58). Berlin, New York: De Gruyter Mouton.

**Eglė Gudavičienė** is a lecturer of Vilnius University, Faculty of Philology, Department of Lithuanian Studies. She is an researcher in the field of sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, linguistic pragmatics, academic language. She is the participant of several sociolinguistic projects related to language use of the Lithuanian population, of Lithuanian emigrants. She is the co-author of several collective monographs.

## **Social threats in interactionally troublesome exchanges: The complexities of reporting threatening experiences through social identities**

HENRI NEVALAINEN  
(Tampere University, Finland)

---

Interactionally troublesome exchanges (ITEs) refer to situations where an interaction has unsatisfactory or distressing consequences and outcomes, which may remain disturbing to the person even after the event. One form of ITEs occurs in interactions where a person perceives a threat. Since the experience of a threat is often associated with potential harm rather than concrete damage, conveying it in a tellable manner can be challenging.

Social psychological threat research suggests that in threatening situations, people tend to identify more strongly with relevant social groups. Thus, social identities may become relevant also when reporting about threatening experience. However, such implicit descriptions based on social identity processes might turn against the narrator, for example, by drawing attention to the narrator's own moral and psychological tendencies. On the other hand, narrating a story through the lens of social identities can simultaneously be safer, as referencing personal identity would draw attention to an individual's personal traits, potentially creating a face-threatening situation during the storytelling situation,

Drawing on a Finnish interview data focusing on discrimination faced by a particular educational community ( $n = 11$ ) and by utilizing conversation and discourse analytic methodological tools, this presentation explores accounts of ITEs where interviewees have experienced a threat of being belittled. Specifically, we describe how the narrator balances between narrative via social identities and personal identity, aiming to tell a story that is both tellable and makes them appear as a moral actor. By examining how social identities are used in narrating ITEs, this presentation highlights the complex ways in which identity factors can shape and influence narrative accounts.

**Henri Nevalainen:** A doctoral researcher at the Tampere University. He also contributes to Melisa Stevanovic's Academy of Finland funded 'Accounting for interactionally troublesome exchanges: Paradoxes, biases, and inequalities in storytelling, perceiving, and countering problematic social experiences' project as a researcher.

---

## Experts performing sensations for others

LEELO KEEVALLIK AND EMILY HOFSTETTER  
(Linköping University, Sweden)

---

In this study, we investigate how more experienced practitioners of bodily activities index their own sensations, such as strain and pain, at moments when more junior participants are, or should be, noticing and/or undergoing such sensations. We will look at classes of pilates and dance given by one instructor, and rock climbing among peers. In these activities, we document how the experienced participants rely on multimodal resources to bring about well-timed performances of proprioceptive sensations, and contrast them with moments where descriptions of the relevant sensations are invoked. The data include 38 hours of dance instruction in different languages, 4 hours of pilates training in Estonian, and 21 hours of rock climbing in Swedish and English. We use multimodal interaction analysis (Mondada 2019) to capture the precise sequential and temporal organization of different resources, among them talk, prosody, gesture, gaze, posture, as well as movement. We can thereby illustrate one way intercorporeality is accomplished and made relevant, in how participants re-actualize own corporeal experiences in new comparable situations, and thereby position themselves as experts in relation to co-present others. We argue that the multimodal performances timed with others' moves constitute a collaborative way of sensing, transgressing individual bodies. Descriptions of sensations, in contrast, mark a separation of the bodies, and organize discrepancies in sensation for instruction purposes. The participants design their indexing of distributed sensations to mark a range of empathic and instructive alignments. While past work in cognitive science (Di Paolo et al. 2018) and intercorporeality (Merleau-Ponty 1968) take it as given that experience is distributed among participants, we can thus elucidate when such (un)availability of sensation is co-operated on (Goodwin 2018), and how that is relevant for accomplishing local bodily tasks.

Di Paolo, E. A., Cuffari, E. C., & De Jaegher, H. (2018). *Linguistic Bodies: The continuity between life and language*. MIT Press.

Goodwin, C. (2018). *Co-Operative Action*. Cambridge University Press.

Merleau-Ponty, M. (1968). *The Visible and the Invisible: Followed by Working Notes* (Vol. 20). Northwestern University Press.

Mondada, L. (2019). Contemporary issues in conversation analysis: Embodiment and materiality, multimodality and multisensoriality in social interaction. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 145, 47-62.

**Leelo Keevallik** is a professor in language and culture. She is specialized on interactional linguistics and multimodal conversation analysis, and has worked on a variety of linguistic topics, including syntax and phonetics. Her fieldwork has targeted heritage languages, dance teaching, pilates training, tasting and disgust at family mealtimes.

**Emily Hofstetter** is a lecturer in language and culture. Her area of expertise is ethnomethodology and she has analyzed the accomplishment of thinking in boardgames, the communication of strain in rock climbing. Her current work concerns synchronization, multisensoriality, and collaboration in megagames.

---

## Communicating resistance in gendered assault

ANN WEATHERALL<sup>1</sup> AND ANN DOEHRING<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>University of Bedfordshire, United Kingdom; <sup>2</sup>Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)

---

Gendered norms and stereotypes about language and social interaction have pervasive and perverse consequences for communicating refusals. On the one hand, caring, compliance and silence are characteristics that are widely understood as being valued aspects of femininity. On the other hand loudness, directness and resistance are expected for communicating sexual refusals. Together, they effectively impede strong resistance when one's will is being disregarded and attribute blame to women for not displaying clear opposition. Empowerment self defence training is a feminist preventative intervention that is effective in reducing violence against women and girls by making them feel more confident and willing to act. It is distinctive for presenting a gender analysis of violence alongside imparting skills to better pre-empt and ward off attacks. The present study asks how are interruptions to trajectories of violence supported in empowerment self defence classes? The research is a video study of ten classes delivered by *Kia Haumaru*, a feminist, bi-cultural, non-governmental organisation in Aotearoa, New Zealand. The data are examined using multi modal conversation analysis. The findings establish that when initial, normative refusals are disregarded, increased resistance requires drawing on verbal, vocal and embodied communicative resources. However, there are a range of social and interactional norms that can be barriers to acting in self-defence. The results are used to further develop a consideration of the sequential organisation of violent actions, the socially constituted forces shaping their realisation and the verbal, vocal and embodied resources that can be mobilised to disrupt them.

**Ann Weatherall:** A professor in Psychology at the University of Bedfordshire UK. Her work develops knowledge from discursive and feminist perspective to study issues at the heart of social psychology. She is currently addressing the pervasive problem of violence against women and girls.

**Ann Doehring:** Ann has a PhD in social psychology. Her doctoral research used conversation analysis to examine three-party interactions between doctors, patients, and their companions in a UK seizure clinic. She is interested in how people use language to navigate difficult and delicate conversations, and how people negotiate their roles and participation in an interaction.

---

## Managing anxiety in treatment negotiations of multiple sclerosis encounters

JUHANA MUSTAKALLIO AND JOHANNA RUUSUVUORI  
(Tampere University, Finland)

---

As is known from research on vaccinations or blood tests, many patients experience fear or unease in regards injections (Love & Love 2021). Expressing such fear may however be treated as delicate or face-threatening, as in health care interaction injections are necessary for prevention and treatment of various illnesses. Furthermore, research shows that although affect is observably present in all social encounters, it is rarely expressed with words or direct mentioning of the emotional state (Ruusuvuori 2012). This makes expressions of fear and unease difficult to topicalize even when it would be relevant in regards the ongoing institutional activity.

This presentation describes ways in which patients express their negative affect in a specific context of multiple sclerosis encounters and how doctors respond to manage the patients' affect in these situations. In multiple sclerosis there are various options of treatment, most of them including injections, either at the hospital or at home. The treatments come with possible side effects that influence the daily lives of the patients and one purpose of treatment discussion is to find a form of medication that the patient is willing and able to use, this way ensuring sufficient adherence to treatment. Our method is multimodal conversation analysis, and our data consist of 18 multiple sclerosis encounters with a neurologist. Our preliminary analysis suggests that the patients show some level of anxiety in discussing the topic. We will describe the ways in which these affects are observable in the patients' embodied behaviour, tone of voice, self-touch as emotional regulation (Mueller et al. 2019, Pang et al. 2022) and their choice of words, and with what kind of practices doctors are able to respond to these embodied expressions.

- Love, Ashley & Love, Robert. (2021). Considering Needle Phobia among Adult Patients During Mass COVID-19 Vaccinations. *Journal of Primary Care & Community Health*. (Vol. 12. No. 1-4.) 1-4.
- Mueller, Stephanie, Martin, Sven & Grunwald, Martin. (2019). Self-touch: Contact durations and point of touch of spontaneous facial self-touches differ depending on cognitive and emotional load. *PLoS ONE*. (Vol 14. No. 3.) 1-21.
- Pang, Hio Tong, Canarslan Feride, Chu, Mingyuan. (2022). Individual Differences in Conversational Self-Touch Frequency Correlate with State Anxiety. *Journal of Nonverbal Behavior*. (Vol. 46.) 299-319.
- Ruusuvuori, Johanna. (2012). Emotion, affect and conversation. In A. Sidnell, Jack, & Stivers, Tanya. (Eds.) *The Handbook of Conversation Analysis*. Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford University Press.

**Juhana Mustakallio** is a PhD Researcher in the Tampere University, focusing on embodied interaction and affects in healthcare encounters. His current interests are touch in interaction, doctor's embodied empathy and difficult and delicate interactional sequences in medical consultations.

**Johanna Ruusuvuori** is a Professor of Social Psychology at Tampere University, heading a research group that studies social interaction institutional encounters. Her fields of expertise include emotion in interaction, vocal and non-vocal interaction at work. Her recent research focuses on displays of affect and decision-making in organizational settings.

## Mapping the language-in-identity configuration in Hong Kong today

YUFEI GUO

(Sun Yat-sen University, China)

---

This study explores how language ideologies participate in different identity-building processes in Hong Kong under the changing sociopolitical circumstances. Based on the concept of collective identity and language ideology, we explore the representation of Cantonese, Putonghua, simplified characters and traditional characters in Hong Kong's press media from 2017 to 2022 and discover four modalities in which language is involved in identity building through the mediation of language ideology.

The study shows that the relationship between language and collective identity is full of heterogeneity, complexity and dynamics. While Putonghua and simplified characters are commonly associated with resistance identity vis à vis Mainland China, there is a new tendency that Putonghua is being associated with national identity. Cantonese and traditional characters have identity connotations at local, regional and national levels. They are exploited by various social agents for conscious identity work with different purposes.

Bacon-Shone, J., Bolton, K. & Luke, K. (2015). *Language Use, Proficiency and Attitudes in Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Social Sciences Research Centre, The University of Hong Kong.

Brown, R. (2000). Social Identity Theory: past achievement, current problems and future challenges. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 30(6): 745-778.

Calhoun, C. (1993). Nationalism and Ethnicity. *Annual Review of Sociology*, vol. 19, 211-239.

Castell, M. (2010). *The power of identity* (second edition). Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

Edwards, J. G. H. (2019). *The Politics of English in Hong Kong: Attitudes, Identity and Use*. Oxon, New York: Routledge.

**Yufei Guo**, currently serving as an Associate Professor at the Institute of Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao Development Studies at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China, brings a wealth of expertise in language-related research. Her primary focus lies in the realms of language policy, where she delves into the dynamics of language, discourse, and identity politics, particularly within the context of Hong Kong. Dr. Guo earned her Ph.D. from the Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (Inalco) in Paris, France.

**“Apologies for my Ese-Kansai-Dialect”:  
Language ownership of the Kansai Dialect in online space**

YAO SUN

(University of Oxford, United Kingdom)

---

Following its national popularity as part of popular culture since the 1980s, the Kansai dialect of Japan has become a valuable linguistic resource on screens, in comedy performances and in real-life interactions. Issues of authenticity and language ownership arise as the regional variety becomes spoken and heard outside of the region. “Ese-Kansai Dialect” (EKD) is a term coined in recent years to denote the Kansai dialect used by non-native speakers with “unnatural traits.” The word “EKD” is often heard and seen in media, denying the speakers’ legitimate speakerhood. The previous literature’s treatment of EKD as a social dialect hindered scholarly attention on the ideological formation of EKD, as well as the dynamics between linguistic varieties within Japan.

This study sets out with the hypothesis that EKD is an ideological notion through which native speakers reclaim ownership. Additionally, this study aims to reveal the ideology towards the new speakerhood of the dialect expressed on social media by analyzing the metalinguistic discourse on the notion of EKD. The dataset is comprised of 996 Tweets posted from 31st Aug to 7th Sept 2022 gathered from Twitter using API keys. The data demonstrates that shared insecurity among non-native users of the dialect is prominent in the online space, and many would apologize or ask for permission when trying to use the dialect. EKD is primarily used as a proactive label to deny oneself language ownership before potential criticism and to get away with using the dialect “imperfectly” as a non-native speaker. While supporting the hypothesis, this study elaborates on how new speakerhood is negotiated in the case of the Kansai dialect. Rather than gaining a higher competence in the dialect, many new speakers shy away from using the dialect with native speakers and prefer to use it within a community of non-native speakers.

**Yao Sun** is a DPhil candidate at the University of Oxford specializing in the sociolinguistic study of Japanese dialects. Her doctoral research focuses on language ownership in contemporary Japan. Yao is a Sasakawa Scholar, a Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellow, and a Simon-Li Scholar in Linguistics.

---

## The differential effects of counter-stereotypical language between racial groups

XUN ZHU<sup>1</sup>, YOULLEE KIM<sup>2</sup> AND HUAI-YU CHEN<sup>1</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>University of Kentucky, United States; <sup>2</sup>University of Denver, United States)

---

Language plays a crucial role in social inequality. At the core of the relationship between language and social inequality is the idea that language reflects and maintains social stereotypes. Increasing attention has been paid to the role of language in mitigating stereotypes. One strategy that circulates widely in popular discourses is to use language that counters the prevailing stereotypes about a social group. Despite its intuitive appeal, uncertainties remain as to the effects of counter-stereotypical language, especially how it may differentially affect members of various social groups. Role congruity theory suggests that counter-stereotypical language may increase negative evaluations of a stereotyped group because such expressions violate normative expectations (Eagly & Karau, 2002), while language expectancy theory suggests that the effects depend on the valence of expectancy violation (Burgoon, 1995). In this study, we tested these competing hypotheses, focusing on Asian and Black Americans—the two groups often associated with the stereotype of low warmth in the United States. We collected data on language use from over 27,000 US-based medical crowdfunding campaigns. Medical crowdfunding provides an ideal context for our investigation. On the one hand, language is the primary way for users to appeal for support, making its effective use consequential for campaign success. On the other hand, medical crowdfunding is characterized by profound inequality that disadvantages beneficiaries from racial or ethnic minorities due to negative stereotypes. Leveraging large language data (totaling over 9 million words) and natural language processing, we found divergent effects of language countering stereotypes about Asian and Black Americans on campaign outcomes. Linguistic expressions of warmth were associated with an increase in campaign donations for Asian beneficiaries but a decrease in donations for Black beneficiaries. Our findings demonstrate how language used to challenge stereotypes may incidentally reproduce or even exacerbate social inequality.

Burgoon, M. (1995). Language expectancy theory: Elaboration, explication, and extension. In C. R. Berger & M. Burgoon (Eds.), *Communication and social influence processes* (pp. 29–52). Michigan State University Press.

Eagly, A. H., & Karau, S. J. (2002). Role congruity theory of prejudice toward female leaders. *Psychological Review*, 109(3), 573–598. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-295X.109.3.573>

**Xun Zhu** is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Kentucky, US. His research, broadly, focuses on language and social influence, and specifically, on how language affects socially shared cognition and behavior.

**Youllee Kim** is an assistant professor at the University of Denver, US. Her research focuses on health communication, social influence, and community-based health interventions.

**Huai-yu Chen** is a doctoral student in the Department of Communication at the University of Kentucky, US. Her research interests focus on media psychology in health, social media, and other applied contexts.

## Breaking the accent barrier: Stereotype threat in nonstandard-accented speakers' social interactions

MERRISA LIN AND NAIRÁN RAMÍREZ-ESPARZA  
(University of Connecticut, USA)

This study explores how nonstandard-accented speakers' speech patterns are influenced by interactions with standard versus nonstandard-accented speakers, drawing on the stereotype threat framework. Previous research showed that listeners generally prefer standard-accented speakers, leading to prejudice and discrimination against nonstandard-accented speakers. This bias induces anxiety in nonstandard-accented speakers during intergroup interactions, undermining their fluency and confidence in speaking, thus adversely affecting their speech patterns as they try to manage others' perceptions. Our goal is to bridge the research gap concerning accents within the stereotype threat framework, especially in social interactions. We seek to examine how interactions with standard-accented speakers, who may trigger negative accent stereotypes, influence the speech patterns of nonstandard-accented speakers.

Using an exploratory observational study, nonstandard-accented participants from a Northeastern university ( $N=152$ ) were tasked with a group discussion on WebEx, where a standard-accented confederate pretended to be a late participant and joined midway through the discussion. The discussions ( $N=49$ ) were recorded, transcribed by WebEx's AI services, and analyzed using the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (Boyd et al., 2022). Specifically, we focused on changes in speech patterns, including word count, errors, jargon usage, filler words, language demonstrating confidence, and authenticity.

Results showed that nonstandard-accented speakers spoke less, made more mistakes, tried to sound more confident, and disclosed their feelings less when interacting with a standard-accented speaker. However, they used fewer jargon and similar number of filler words in these interactions. Interestingly, the number of words participants spoke before—not after—the standard-accented speaker joined predicted overall interaction quality and engagement. The findings suggest that stereotype threat influences nonstandard-accented speakers' speech patterns, further impacting their interactions. Using AI and text analytics, this study reveals the subtle and unconscious communication accommodations in social interactions. We also offer insights into how accent can contribute to the cultivation of positive communication environments.

Table 1: Results and Comparisons of Participant Speech Pre-Post Confederate Joined

	Pre-Confederate		Post-Confederate		<i>t</i>	Cohen's <i>d</i>
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>		
Word Count	390.00	251.70	212.20	199.00	12.39**	1.01
Error	13.79	7.14	25.70	11.16	-3.83**	-0.31
Jargon	0.03	0.13	0.00	0.04	2.84*	0.23
Filler Word	9.27	3.41	8.79	5.06	1.37	0.11
Confidence	20.58	18.34	27.05	25.36	-2.88*	-0.24
Authenticity	69.49	20.42	27.05	25.36	4.25**	0.35

*Note.* The scores for error, jargon, and filler words are percentages of words corresponding to each of the above categories. The scores for confidence and authenticity are standardized scores that have been converted to percentiles ranging from 1 to 99.

\* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ .

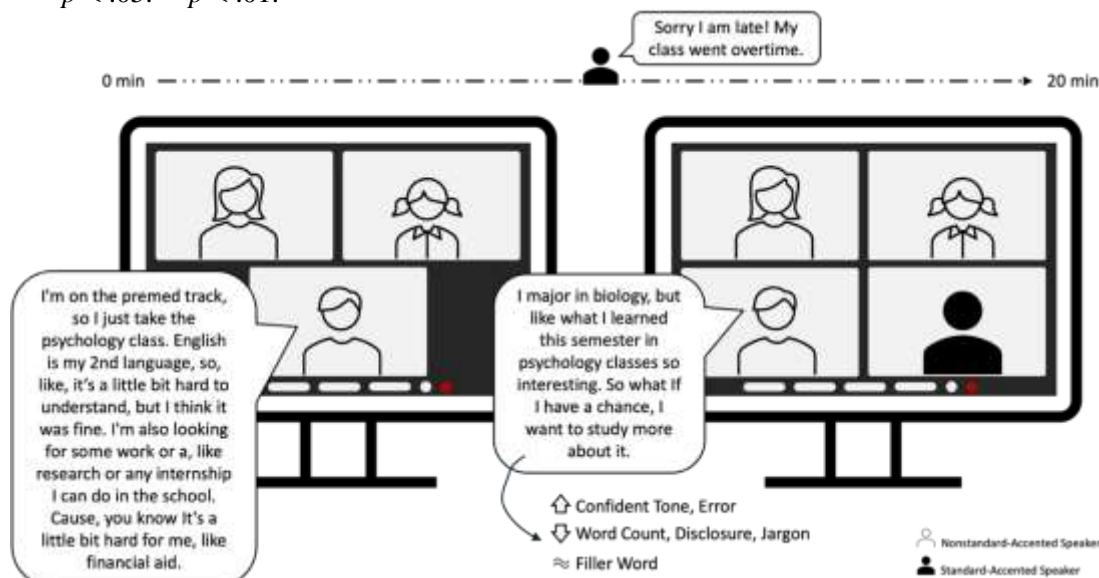


Figure 1: Study Overview

## References

- Birney, M. E., Rabinovich, A., Morton, T. A., Heath, H., & Ashcroft, S. (2020). When Speaking English Is Not Enough: The Consequences of Language-Based Stigma for Nonnative Speakers. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology, 39*(1), 67-86. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0261927X19883906>
- Boyd, R. L., Ashokkumar, A., Seraj, S., & Pennebaker, J. W. (2022). *The development and psychometric properties of LIWC-22*. The University of Texas at Austin. <https://www.liwc.app>
- Dragojevic, M., Fasoli, F., Cramer, J., & Rakić, T. (2021). Toward a Century of Language Attitudes Research: Looking Back and Moving Forward. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology, 40*(1), 60–79. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0261927X20966714>
- Gallois, C., Ogay, T., and Giles, H. (2005). Communication Accommodation Theory: A Look Back and a Look Ahead. In W. Gudykunst (Eds.), *Theorizing about intercultural communication* (pp. 121-148). Thousand Oaks, CA, USA: Sage.
- Kim, S. Y., Wang, Y., Deng, S., Alvarez, R., & Li, J. (2011). Accent, perpetual foreigner stereotype, and perceived discrimination as indirect links between English proficiency and depressive symptoms in Chinese American adolescents. *Developmental Psychology, 47*(1), 289–301. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0020712>
- Lindemann, S. (2003). Koreans, Chinese or Indians? Attitudes and ideologies about non-native English speakers in the United States. *Journal of Sociolinguistics, 7*(3), 348–364. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9481.00228>
- Paladino, M. P., Poddesu, L., Rauzi, M., Vaes, J., Cadinu, M., & Forer, D. (2009). Second Language Competence in the Italian-Speaking Population of Alto Adige/Südtirol: Evidence for Linguistic Stereotype Threat. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology, 28*(3), 222-243. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0261927X09335333>
- Steele, C. M., & Aronson, J. (1995). Stereotype threat and the intellectual test performance of African Americans. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 69*(5), 797–811. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.69.5.797>

**Merrisa Lin** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Psychological Sciences at the University of Connecticut. She is broadly interested in the complex ways that shape human experiences. Her research focus centers on the intersections of culture and language, delving into the impact of these factors on identity, cognition, and social interactions. Merrisa has contributed to published works and is actively engaged in research examining the effects of multiculturalism, accent, and language on individuals and their social dynamics.

**Nairán Ramírez-Esparza** is an Associate Professor and Director of Social Psychology in the Department of Psychological Sciences at the University of Connecticut.

### Measuring and modelling language attitudes:

#### Comparisons across two bilingual communities

MARCO TAMBURELLI<sup>1</sup>, HAMIDREZA BAGHERI<sup>1</sup>, IANTO GRUFFYDD<sup>1,2</sup>, LISSANDER BRASCA<sup>1</sup> AND FLORIAN BREIT<sup>1,3</sup>  
(<sup>1</sup>Bangor University, United Kingdom; <sup>2</sup>Cardiff University, United Kingdom; <sup>3</sup>University College London United Kingdom)

Speakers' attitudes are considered a fundamental barometer for the vitality of a language (e.g., UNESCO, 2003). This, together with findings that implicit attitudes are generally stronger predictors of habitual and spontaneous behaviour (e.g., Perugini, 2005), raises two core questions: (1) which types of attitudes and thus which attitude measurements are better predictors of language usage? (2) to what extent do different language policies feed different types of speakers' attitudes? We explored these questions by measuring rates of spontaneous language usage and comparing them with attitudinal results from two methods that vary in degrees of implicitness: the Matched Guise Technique (Lambert et al., 1960) and the Implicit Association Test (Greenwald, McGhee & Schwartz, 1998) across two bilingual communities whose regional/minority languages receive radically different degrees of socio-political recognition: Lombard–Italian (Italy) and Welsh–English (UK). Results from 163 participants aged between 24–36 years show that usage rates correlate with MGT status scores for Lombard but not for Welsh. The reverse holds for IAT scores, correlating with usage rates for Welsh but not Lombard. We propose that these findings can be understood in view of the different socio-political support associated with the two languages: while strong support for Welsh led to its use becoming habitual and thus able to be captured by implicit attitude measurements, the use of Lombard has been discouraged for decades, and therefore younger speakers who choose to use it are making a more deliberate, conscious decision, resulting in behaviour that correlates with the less implicit measurements of the MGT. These results have important implications for the study of language attitudes, particularly for the measurement of attitudes as a proxy for language vitality. Specifically, they suggest that the degree to which an attitudinal measurement can predict linguistic behaviour depends partly on the social and political circumstances of the language at issue.

Greenwald, A. G., McGhee, D. E. & Schwartz, L. K. (1998). Measuring individual differences in implicit cognition: The Implicit Association Test. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 74(6), 1464–1480.

Lambert, W. E., Hodgson, R. C., Gardner, R. C. & Fillenbaum, S. (1960). Evaluational reactions to spoken languages. *The Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, 60(4), 44–51. <https://doi.org/10.1037/h0044430>

Perugini, M. (2005). Predictive models of implicit and explicit attitudes. *The British Journal of Social Psychology*, 44(1), 29–45. <https://doi.org/10.1348/014466604X23491>

UNESCO Ad Hoc Expert Group on Endangered Languages. (2003). *Language Vitality and Endangerment*. UNESCO.

**Marco Tamburelli** is Professor of Linguistics at Bangor University. His research focuses on multi-lingualism, both from representational and sociolinguistic perspectives. His expertise includes regional and minority languages, the measurement of linguistic attitudes in bilingual communities, and the measurement of linguistic distance and intelligibility rates in linguistic continua.

**Hamidreza Bagheri** is a researcher in psychology and cognitive neuroscience, exploring subconscious factors that influence or shape perception, judgement, attitude, and behavior. His research aims to investigate the dynamic of biases and how they change due to desire for social integration or due to social pressure.

**Ianto Gruffydd's** research focuses on attitudes towards Welsh and its different varieties. Specifically, his expertise includes analysing both explicit and implicit attitudes and how different varieties are perceived socially. He also specialises in the sociophonetics of Welsh and Welsh English varieties.

**Lissander Brasca's** research focuses on language planning for endangered languages, particularly for Lombard, on intelligibility and linguistic distance between Romance varieties and their classification, and on linguistic attitudes in bilingual communities.

**Florian Breit's** research focuses on regional/minority/minoritised language issues, particularly the measurement, interpretation and role of attitudes in multilinguals, and on theoretical phonology and the linguistic interfaces, often with reference to initial consonant mutation and Welsh.

### Slurs hit close to home:

#### **Sexist slurs and the effect of contextual factors on emotions**

CARMEN CERVONE, MARIA LAURA BETTINSOLI, TOMASO ERSEGHE, ALINA

AGURENKO AND CATERINA SUITNER

(Univeristà degli Studi di Padova, Italy)

---

Sexist slurs are an expression of derogatory language, which attacks members of a given social group because of their membership to that group. Compared to a generic insult, being the target of a derogatory language is associated with lower well-being, as well as negative emotions such as fear, anxiety, and anger (see Cervone et al., 2021). While the literature has already addressed some moderators of this effect, to our knowledge research has yet to investigate the role of contextual factors such as the relationship with the speaker/aggressor, or the public or private setting of the attack.

We bridge this gap by analyzing women's recollections ( $N = 336$ ) of episodes in which they were called either a generic insult (e.g., "asshole") or a sexist slur (e.g., "bitch"). We investigate the effect of contextual factors of such events on their self-reported emotions (i.e., fear, anger, pain, guilt, shame). Results showed that fear was especially triggered by sexist slurs, compared to generic insults,  $F(1, 312) = 17.00, p < .001, \eta^2 = .052$ . Most importantly, however, while for generic insults fear was stronger when the attacker was a stranger ( $M = 3.94, SD = 2.10$ ) than a known person ( $M = 2.79, SD = 1.86$ ),  $p = .003$ , sexist slurs elicited a similar amount of fear when they came from a stranger ( $M = 4.78, SD = 1.89$ ) than from one's partner or family member ( $M = 4.54, SD = 1.59$ )  $p = .288$ . This was not the case for the other emotions.

Overall, this work contributes to the body of evidence showing that slurs are never "just words" and that their negative impact goes beyond that of other insults. Additionally, it suggests a link between derogatory language and abusive domestic contexts, such as the case of intimate partner violence.

Cervone, C., Augoustinos, M., & Maass, A. (2021). The language of derogation and hate: Functions, consequences, and reappropriation. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 40(1), 80–101.

**Carmen Cervone** is a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Padova, Italy. Her research interests concern on economic and gender inequalities. In particular she is interested in the expression of gender bias through language. Her current post-doctoral work primarily focuses on women's reactions to sexual objectification.

**Maria Laura Bettinsoli** is an interdepartmental researcher at University of Padova. Her research interests space from language and (social) cognition to social perception and categorization. Her latest research focuses on psychology of gender and sexual identities with particular interest on intergroup stereotyping through the lens of intersectionality.

**Tomaso Erseghe** is an Associate Professor at the Dept of Information Engineering, University of Padova, Italy. His current research focuses on applied network science and machine learning in collaboration with psychologists. He is also interested in distributed optimization over networks, and information theory.

**Alina Agurenko** is a Master's degree student at the Department of Information Engineering, University of Padova, Italy. Her academic focus centers on machine learning, deep learning, and neural networks. She is dedicated to advancing interdisciplinary research at the intersection of technology and social sciences.

**Caterina Suitner** is Associate Professor at the University of Padova. Her research focuses on the relationship between social cognition and language, with particular attention to the role of para-semantic linguistic features and their role in attitude formation (e.g., trust in vaccines) and belief in fake news, social inequality, and gender issues.

## Characteristics and determinants of hate speech against the LGBTQ+ community in Poland

KLAUDIA RODZIEJCZAK<sup>1</sup> AND EWELINA GAJEWSKA<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland; <sup>2</sup>Warsaw University of Technology, Poland)

Hate speech is a growing social phenomenon defined as verbal violence directed towards various social groups (Bilewicz & Soral, 2020). In this presentation, hate speech is analyzed through the lenses of the LGBTQ+ community, a group particularly vulnerable to verbal violence. Hate speech constitutes a significant social problem, with negative consequences for the well-being and mental health of those experiencing it, including increased suicidal thoughts, more frequent use of sedatives, and higher levels of internalized homophobia (Bilewicz & Soral, 2020; Świder & Winiewski, 2017). Additionally, exposure to verbal violence has negative effects on individuals who are not the direct targets of hateful remarks (Soral et al., 2017; Winiewski et al., 2017). We will present the results of the first phase of research conducted as part of the dissertation. The study aims to characterize the determinants of hate speech use against the LGBTQ+ community in Poland. A multidimensional model of the determinants of hate speech was created, including 7 constructs: motivational (emotional control, anxiety-trait), cognitive (need for cognitive closure), and social (traditional and modern homonegativity, social perceptions of LGBTQ+ community, right-wing authoritarianism). Anxiety-state is established as a moderator in the relationship between these constructs and linguistic indicators of hate speech. The use of hate speech is understood as the intensity of its linguistic determinants, which include the emotions of anger, contempt, anxiety and disgust. Linguistic analyses will be conducted using computational linguistics tools - a combination of dictionary-based and machine-learning methods. Previous research on hate speech predominantly focused on self-reported frequency of usage and perceived offensiveness or the examination of hate speech samples found online. The innovative aspect of this study lies in the analysis of spontaneous speech, enabling a more comprehensive linguistic examination and exploration of the variables influencing hate speech usage.

Bilewicz, M. & Soral, W. (2020). Hate speech epidemic: The dynamic effects of derogatory language on intergroup relations and political radicalization. *Advances in Political Psychology*, 41, 3–33. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12670>

Soral, W., Bilewicz, M. & Winiewski, M. (2017). Exposure to hate speech increases prejudice through desensitization. *Aggressive Behavior*, 2017, 1–11. doi: [10.1002/ab.21737](https://doi.org/10.1002/ab.21737)

Winiewski, M., Hansen, K., Bilewicz, M., Soral, W., Świderska, A. & Bulska, D. (2017). *Mowa nienawiści, mowa pogardy. Raport z badania przemocy werbalnej wobec grup mniejszościowych*. (pp. 123 – 137). Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Sowa.

Winiewski, M. & Świder, M. (2021). *Sytuacja społeczna osób LGBT+ w Polsce. Raport za lata 2019 – 2020*. Kampania Przeciw Homofobii, Stowarzyszenia Lambda Warszawa.

**Klaudia Rodziejczak:** Ph.D. candidate in psychology at the Faculty of Psychology and Cognitive Science, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. Her primary research focus is prejudice and hate speech, with a specific emphasis on the LGBTQ+ community.

**Ewelina Gajewska:** master's degree in cognitive science, Ph. D. candidate at Warsaw University of Technology.

---

**Reticular and hierarchical structures in the language of personality sphere:  
Tracking cybernetic flux effects with Meta-MASEM**

MARK A. HAMILTON

(University of Connecticut, United States)

---

Researchers since Galton (1984) have sought to map the language that people use to describe themselves and others into a spheroid semantic space (Thurstone, 1934). This Language of Personality Sphere (LPS) consists of distinct strata (Cattell, 1943, 1946, 1950) that account for the deeper systemic structure that responds to environmental events (Cattell, 1957, 1979). Researchers have shown more interest in hierarchical structures of the LPS (Costa & McCrae, 1984; DeYoung, et al, 2002) than in reticular (distributed, highly connected) structures. Yet Cattell (1965) argued fervently that a reticular structuring of personality domains (adaptations) provides a better fit to five-factor data than do hierarchical structures. He proposed a unidirectional causal flow from environmental sphere input (i.e., Openness to experience, O) to LPS output (i.e., Extraversion, E). Reticular structures have been eschewed because (1) the engine that would propel the system has remained an enigma and (2) initial tests of the model showed paradoxical findings. The present research proposes a *cybernetic flux* engine that generates dynamic flow within the LPS. The engine consists of two drivers. The first driver is growth-based heterostatic control (represented as  $O \rightarrow E$ , partially mediated by Neuroticism (N) and Psychoticism (P), as well as Conscientiousness (C) and Agreeableness (A). The second driver is a socialization-based temperamental vortex ( $C \rightarrow N \& P \rightarrow A$ ).

A reticular model containing five domains, augmented with the two cybernetic flux drivers, was tested using meta-analytic structural equation modeling (MASEM) in two studies. Study 1 was based on 16PF data from Cattell and colleagues, that features a distinct P domain coupled with merged C and A domains. The results ( $k=16$ ,  $TN=11857$ ) showed partial support for predictions. The study concludes that a major advantage of a P-inclusive reticulum is that it can better account for verbal and physical aggression as social consequences. Study 2 conducted a meta-MASEM test ( $TN= 481691$ ) covering the three main meta-analyses of the Five-Factor and Big 5 data. The results from Study 2 provided strong support for a reticular structure in the LPS.

- Cattell, R. B. (1943). The description of personality. I. Foundations of trait measurement. *Psychological Review*, 50(6), 559–594.
- Cattell, R. B. (1946). *Description and measurement of personality*. World Book Company.
- Cattell, R. B. (1950). *Personality: A systematic theoretical and factual study* (1st ed.). McGraw-Hill.
- Cattell, R. B. (1957). *Personality and motivation structure and measurement*. World Book Co..
- Cattell, R. B., (1965) 'Higher order factor structures and reticular-vs-hierarchical formulae for their interpretation,' in C. Banks and Broadhurst (eds.), *Studies in psychology* London: University of London Press, 223-66.
- Cattell, R. B. (1966). The Scree Plot Test for the Number of Factors. *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, 1, 140-161. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1207/s15327906mbr0102\\_10](http://dx.doi.org/10.1207/s15327906mbr0102_10)
- Cattell, R. B. (1979). *Personality and Learning Theory*, Vols. 1. New York: Springer.
- Costa, P. T., & McCrae, R. R. (1984). Personality as a Lifelong Determinant of Well-Being. In C. Malatesta, & C. Izard (Eds.), *Affective Process in Adult Development and Aging* (pp. 141-157). Beverly Hill, CA: Sage.
- DeYoung, C. G., Peterson, J. B., Higgins, D. M. (2002). Higher-order factors of the Big Five predict conformity: Are there neuroses of health?, *Personality and Individual Differences*, 33, 533-552.
- Galton F. (1884). Measurement of character. *Fortnightly Review*, 36, 179–185.
- Thurstone, L. L. (1934). The vectors of mind. *Psychological Review*, 41(1), 1–32.
- Mark Hamilton** is Professor of Communication at the University of Connecticut. He teaches courses in research methods, persuasion, marketing, organizational communication, and international conflict.. His research interests cover the intersection of language, information processing, personality, message effects, culture, health, politics, temporal effects, and technology.

## Session 8 (Room M-342)

---

### **Contrasting sexual orientation speech stereotypes across the ocean: USA vs. Italy**

STEFANO GUIDI, DIANA PERSICO, ORONZO PARLANGELI, PAOLA PALMITESTA, SIMONETTA GRILLI AND GIULIANO BOCCI  
(University of Siena, Italy)

---

While it's commonly believed that one can discern a person's sexual orientation based on their speech, recent studies have shown only modest accuracy in such identifications, often rooted in stereotypes (Cox et al., 2017; Miller, 2018). These stereotypes may lead to misclassifications and discrimination (Fasoli et al., 2017).

In two studies, we explored explicit sexual orientation speech stereotypes (SOSS) about men. 399 cisgender men and women participants from Italy and the US, including gay and straight individuals, rated how gay and straight men speak across 23 speech characteristics. We also gathered data on participants' personality traits (Guido et al., 2015), homophobic attitudes (Herek, 1988; Wagner et al.; 1994), gender conformity (Kachel et al., 2016), and LGBTQ+ identification (Mohr & Kendra, 2011).

The Italian sample showed strong stereotyping: gay and straight men were rated significantly different for 18-20 out of 23 speech features. The stereotypes are substantially shared by gays and straights (Figure 1), largely consistent with the “gender-inversion theory” (Kite & Deaux, 1987) and with the typical behaviors of minorities w.r.t. prestige. In striking contrast, Study 2 did not find almost any stereotyping in the US sample (Figure 2). For straights, gay and straight men’s speech differed significantly only for one feature, while for gays they differed only for two features.

US straight participants showed slightly more homophobia than Italians, while gay Italians had more identity concerns and a higher sense of superiority over straight people compared to US gays, who felt a stronger LGBTQ+ community connection. While in some cases these factors were associated with explicit SOSS, they can not explain the huge cross-cultural differences in stereotypes. On the one hand, it might be that in Italy the stereotypes are so culturally grounded that people fail to reject them and are not afraid to report them. On the other, US participants might be less prone to overtly express stereotypical judgments concerning sexual orientation.

## Study 1: Italian sample (N = 169)

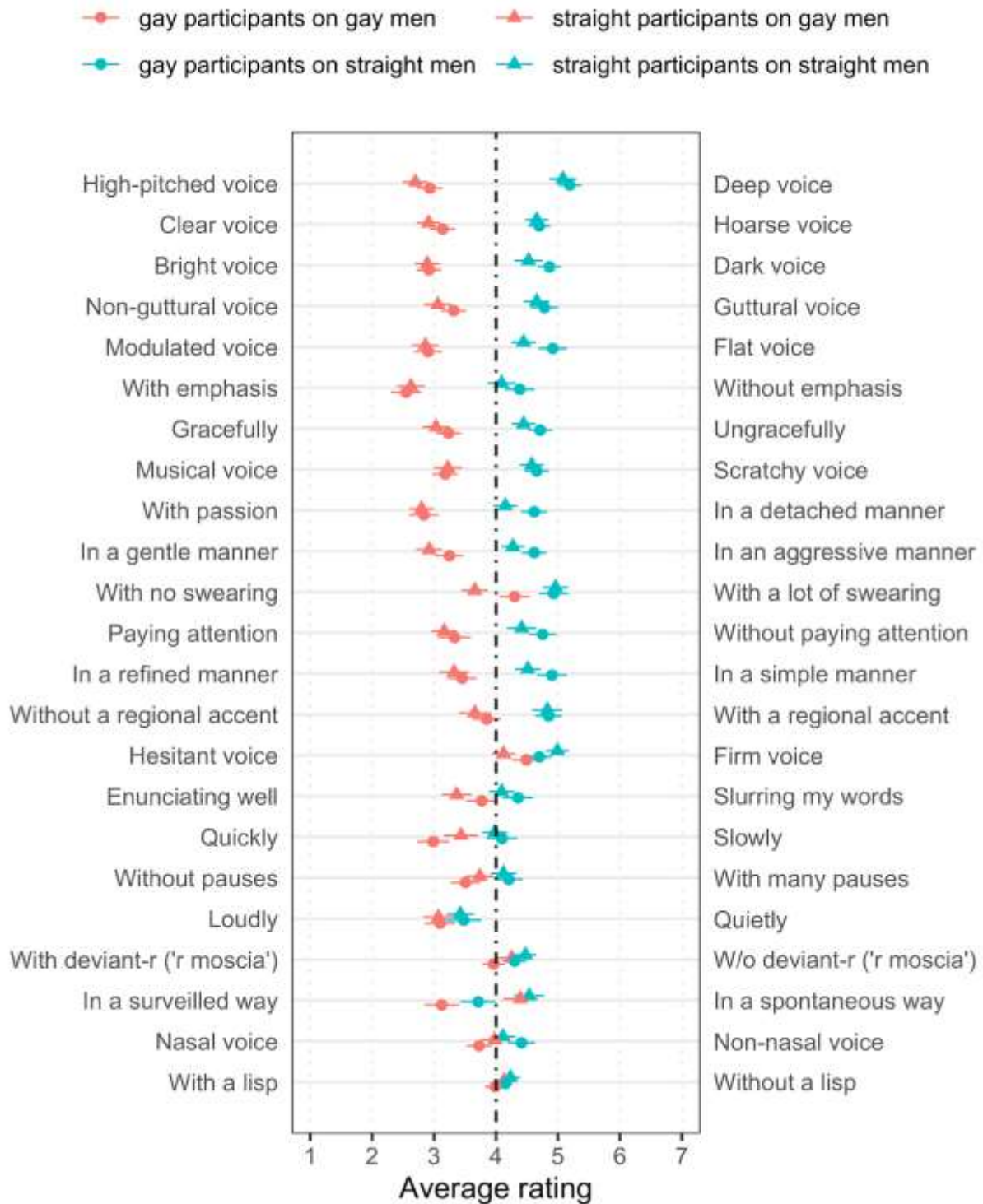


Figure 1: Average ratings by gay (circles) and straight (triangles) Italian participants in Study 1 about the way gay (red) and straight (green) men speak relative to 23 speech traits. Error bars are 95% confidence intervals of the means.

## Study 2: US sample (N = 232)

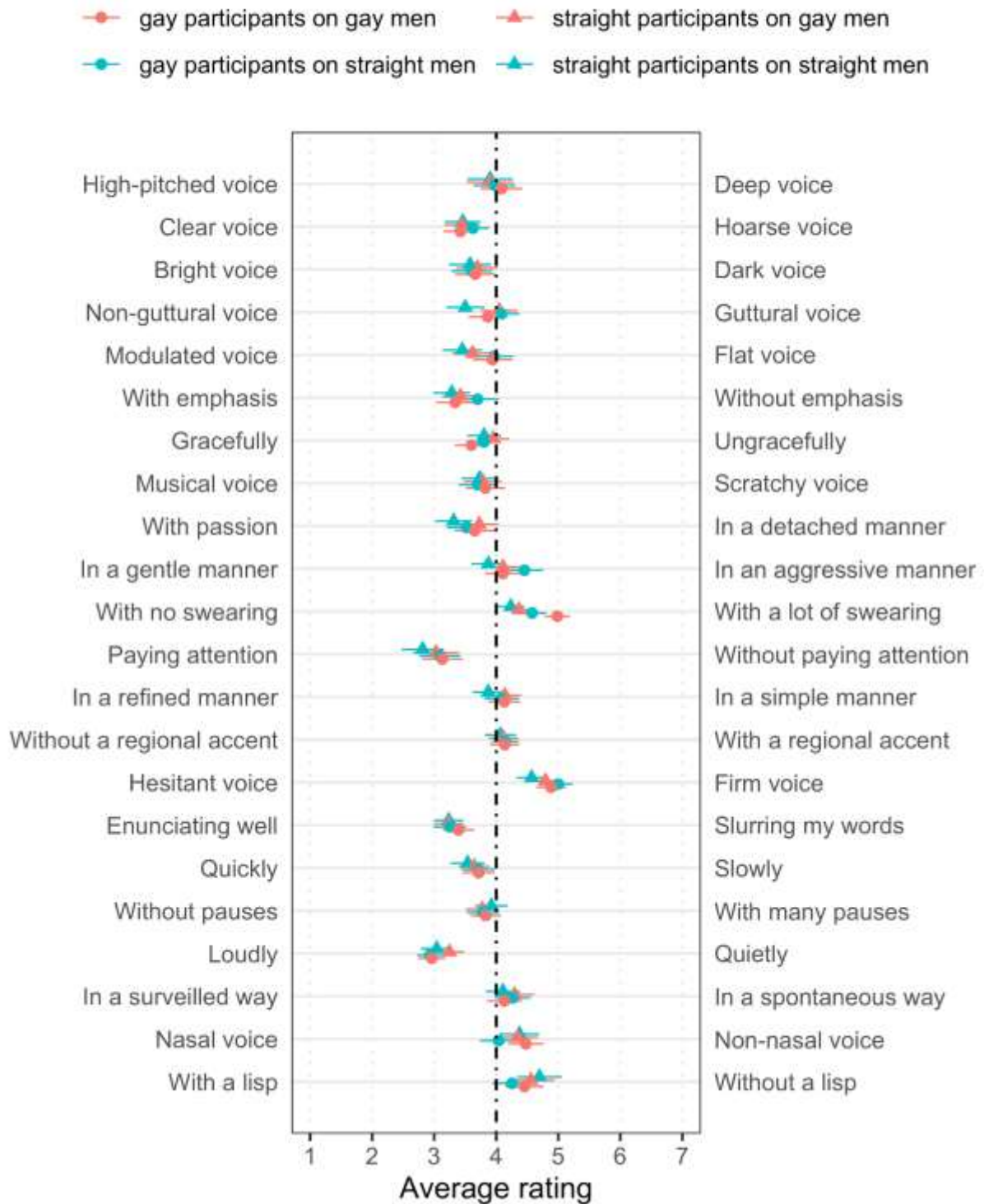


Figure 2: Average ratings by gay (circles) and straight (triangles) US participants in Study 2 about the way gay (red) and straight (green) men speak relative to 22 speech traits. Error bars are 95% confidence intervals of the means.

Cox, W. T. L., Devine, P. G., Bischmann, A. A., & Hyde, J. S. (2017). Ecological Invalidity of Existing Gaydar Research: In-Lab Accuracy Translates to Real-World Inaccuracy: Response to Rule, Johnson, & Freeman (2016). *The Journal of Sex Research*, 54(7), 820–824. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2017.1278570>

- Miller, A. E. (2018). Searching for gaydar: Blind spots in the study of sexual orientation perception. *Psychology & Sexuality*, 9(3), 188–203. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19419899.2018.1468353>
- Fasoli, F., Maass, A., Paladino, M. P., & Sulpizio, S. (2017). Gay- and Lesbian-Sounding Auditory Cues Elicit Stereotyping and Discrimination. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 46(5), 1261–1277. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-017-0962-0>
- Guido, G., Peluso, A. M., Capestro, M., & Miglietta, M. (2015). An Italian version of the 10-item Big Five Inventory: An application to hedonic and utilitarian shopping values. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 76, 135–140. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2014.11.053>
- Herek, G. M. (1988). Heterosexuals' attitudes toward lesbians and gay men: Correlates and gender differences. *Journal of Sex Research*, 25(4), 451–477. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224498809551476>
- Wagner, G., Serafini, J., Rabkin, J., Remien, R., & Williams, J. (1994). Integration of One's Religion and Homosexuality: A Weapon Against Internalized Homophobia? *Journal of Homosexuality*, 26(4), 91–110. [https://doi.org/10.1300/J082v26n04\\_06](https://doi.org/10.1300/J082v26n04_06)
- Kachel, S., Steffens, M. C., & Niedlich, C. (2016). Traditional Masculinity and Femininity: Validation of a New Scale Assessing Gender Roles. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 7. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.00956>
- Mohr, J. J., & Kendra, M. S. (2011). Revision and extension of a multidimensional measure of sexual minority identity: The Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identity Scale. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 58(2), 234–245. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0022858>
- Kite, M. E., & Deaux, K. (1987). Gender Belief Systems: Homosexuality and the Implicit Inversion Theory. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 11(1), Article 1.

**Stefano Guidi**, PhD, is currently associate professor of Social Psychology at the University of Siena. His research has focused on visual perception, perception of AI, stereotypes about human beings and artificial systems, social robotics, and moral social psychology.

**Diana Persico** is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Social Sciences and Humanities, with a project on Gender and Speech, at the University of Siena. With a background in Linguistics and a main interest in Sociophonetics, she has worked on prosody for social conversational agents and Sexual orientation and Speech.

**Oronzo Parlangeli** is associate professor of Organizational Psychology at the University of Siena where he leads the laboratory of the "Design of Work Environments", and the Committee for Ethical Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences -CAREUS-.

**Paola Palmitesta** is currently associate professor of Statistics at the University of Siena. Her research focuses on statistics applied to social sciences.

**Simonetta Grilli**, PhD, is full professor at the University of Siena, where she teaches Anthropology of Family and Social Anthropology. She has conducted research in Italy and Africa, on the family, kinship and migration. Her recent research interests concern the body, gender identity and emerging family norms in contemporary society.

**Giuliano Bocci**, PhD, is currently associate professor in General Linguistics at the University of Siena. He has previously held positions at the University of Bologna, École Normale Supérieure (Paris), and the University of Geneva. His theoretical and experimental research focuses on syntax, prosody, and their interplay with information structure.

---

## **How Italian cisgender straight men (think they can) infer sexual orientation of male speakers: stereotypes, homophobia, and f0**

GIULIANO BOCCI, DIANA PERSICO, LUCAS TUAL AND STEFANO GUIDI  
(University of Siena, Italy)

---

In recent years a growing number of studies have investigated the existence of a “speech gaydar” (a.o. Gaudio, 1994; Sulpizio, et al., 2015; Kachel, et al., 2018) yielding mixed results. (Sulpizio, et al., 2015; Kachel, et al., 2018; Munson, et al., 2006). A crucial aspect is that these studies have often analyzed read speech or productions obtained in artificial contexts.

In this talk, we address how the alleged ‘speech gaydar’ functions in Italian cisgender straight men, exploring the relationships among stereotypes, homophobia levels (measured with the AGT scale, Herek, 1998), and f0.

To get ecologically valid productions we conducted a gamified production experiment in Italian (Exp1). Two men played a collaborative web-based game (~50 mins.), interacting remotely and only through voice. The game included several repetitions of “Guess who?”. The two players alternated in the two roles of ‘detective’ and ‘assistant’. With this technique we elicited several productions in different phases of the game from 16 native speakers of Italian: 8 self-identified as straight and 8 as gay/queer.

256 utterances produced during the games were phonetically analyzed and tested in 2 perception experiments. 45 and 93 straight men rated the stimuli respectively for the speaker’s Sexual Orientation (SO) (Exp2), and for a set of 5 stereotypical traits associated with gay speech (Exp3). The results showed that raters failed to correctly identify speaker’s SO, and that the ratings of the high-pitched trait significantly associate with the perception of gayness. We conclude that when men attribute sexual orientation on the basis of speech features, they rely on the explicit stereotype of the gay high-pitched voice.

Both types of ratings are significantly predicted by the f0 median (st). However, in our data, gay and straight speakers did not actually differ with respect to f0 parameters. In this sense, the stereotypes were inaccurate, and lead raters to the error. But not all in the same way: homophobic raters showed greater sensitivity to f0 median than the less homophobic ones.

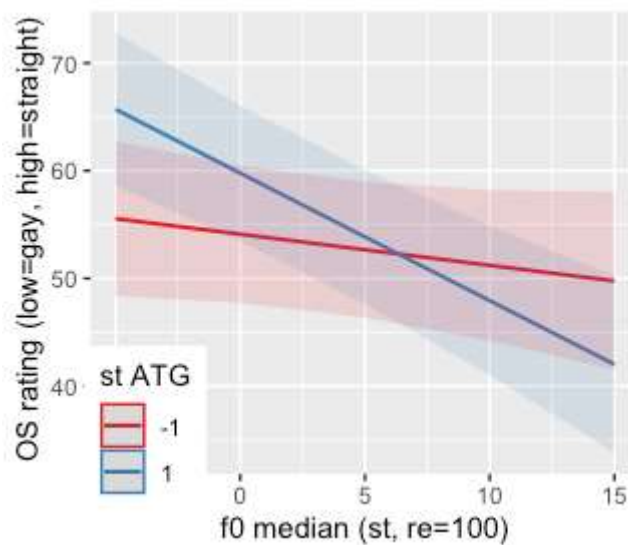


Figure 1: OS ratings as a function of f0 median (in st. re=100) at different levels of homophobia (standardized ATG)

- Gaudio, R. P. (1994). Sounding Gay: Pitch Properties in the Speech of Gay and Straight Men. *American Speech*, 69(1), Article 1. <https://doi.org/10.2307/455948>
- Sulpizio, S., Fasoli, F., Maass, A., Paladino, M. P., Vespignani, F., Eyssel, F., & Bentler, D. (2015). The Sound of Voice: Voice-Based Categorization of Speakers' Sexual Orientation within and across Languages. *PLOS ONE*, 10(7), Article 7. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0128882>
- Kachel, S., Radtke, A., Skuk, V. G., Zäske, R., Simpson, A. P., & Steffens, M. C. (2018). Investigating the common set of acoustic parameters in sexual orientation groups: A voice averaging approach. *PLOS ONE*, 13(12), e0208686. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0208686>
- Munson, B., McDonald, E. C., DeBoe, N. L., & White, A. R. (2006). The acoustic and perceptual bases of judgments of women and men's sexual orientation from read speech. *Journal of Phonetics*, 34(2), 202–240. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wocn.2005.05.003>
- Herek, G. M. (1988). Heterosexuals' attitudes toward lesbians and gay men: Correlates and gender differences. *Journal of Sex Research*, 25(4), 451–477. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224498809551476>
- Kachel, S., Simpson, A. P., & Steffens, M. C. (2018). "Do I Sound Straight?": Acoustic Correlates of Actual and Perceived Sexual Orientation and Masculinity/Femininity in Men's Speech. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 61(7), 1560–1578. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2018\\_JSLHR-S-17-0125](https://doi.org/10.1044/2018_JSLHR-S-17-0125)
- Patterson, D., & Ladd, D. R. (1999). Pitch Range Modelling: Linguistic Dimensions Of Variation. In Ohala, J. J., Hasegawa, Y., & Ohala, M. (Eds.). *Proceedings of the XIVth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences: ICPhS* (pp- 1169-1172) University of California. Berkeley.

**Giuliano Bocci**, PhD, is currently an associate professor in General Linguistics at the University of Siena. He has previously held positions at the University of Bologna, École Normale Supérieure (Paris), and the University of Geneva. His theoretical and experimental research focuses on syntax, prosody, and their interplay with information structure.

**Diana Persico** is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Social Sciences and Humanities, with a project on Gender and Speech, at the University of Siena. With a background in Linguistics and a main interest in Sociophonetics, she has worked on prosody for social conversational agents and Sexual orientation and Speech.

**Lucas Tual** is currently a research assistant at the University of Siena. His research areas encompass formal linguistics, semantics, prosody, and syntax.

**Stefano Guidi**, PhD, is currently associate professor of Social Psychology at the University of Siena. His research has focused on visual perception, perception of AI, stereotypes about human beings and artificial systems, social robotics and moral social psychology.

## Voice-based perception of minority groups:

### Processes and consequences

FABIO FASOLI<sup>1</sup> AND SVEN KACHEL<sup>2,3</sup>

(<sup>1</sup> University of Surrey, United Kingdom; <sup>2</sup> University of Kaiserslautern-Landau, Germany; <sup>3</sup> University of Helsinki, Finland)

---

Voice and vocal cues play a pivotal role in shaping our perceptions and judgments toward speakers. This symposium will examine how vocal cues are used to draw inferences about speakers who belong to foreign-accented, sexual and gender minority groups. In doing so, we will consider how voices trigger social perception, attitudes, and discrimination and provide evidence of possible solutions to reduce negative biases. In the first talk, Dr Dragojevic will provide evidence of the importance of both stereotyping and fluency when assessing attitudes toward foreign-accented speakers. In the second talk, Dr Roessel will show that it is not only a matter of foreign accents. Indeed, accents as well as specific vocal cues, such as pitch, can influence the attribution of humanness to speakers. The third talk will continue to consider vocal cues but will focus on another axis of social differentiation: Dr Kachel will show us how manipulations of certain vocal cues affect judgments of sexual orientation. The fourth talk will examine the consequences of sounding 'gay'. Dr Fasoli will show that sounding gay can trigger negative biases in the hiring context, but such effects are reduced when the speakers convey agentic messages. The final talk by Dr Hansen will investigate the role of voice and its interplay with language while focusing on non-binary individuals. This talk will show that nonbinary individuals are perceived more negatively when gender-neutral language is used to refer to them and when nonbinary gender is associated with a masculine-sounding voice. Altogether, the symposium will provide new insights into the importance of considering the interplay between vocal and linguistic cues as well as the importance of considering both listeners' and speakers' perspectives.

**Fabio Fasoli** is Senior Lecturer in Social Psychology at the University of Surrey where he teaches 'Social Psychology of Language and Communication' among other modules. His research interests are auditory gaydar, impression formation, voice-based discrimination, derogatory language, and language reclamation.

**Sven Kachel**, PhD, is a social psychologist and phonetician at the University of Kaiserslautern-Landau, Germany, where he teaches 'Communication in Intergroup Contexts' among others. His research focuses on stereotypes, social identity, and impression formation related to voices and other signals (e.g., morphosyntax, clothing).

---

## The Relative Effects of Stereotypes and Processing Fluency on Americans' Attitudes Toward Foreign-Accented Speakers

MARKO DRAGOJEVIC AND ZANE A. DAYTON  
(University of Kentucky, USA)

---

Language attitudes are people's evaluative reactions to speakers of different language varieties. They are theorized to be a function of *stereotyping*—i.e., listeners use speakers' accent to infer which social group speakers belong to and attribute to them stereotypic traits associated with those groups—and listeners' *processing fluency*—i.e., the more difficulty listeners experience processing a person's speech, the more negatively they evaluate that person. Surprisingly, however, no studies have directly measured listeners' stereotypes, nor simultaneously examined the relative influence of stereotypes and processing fluency on language attitudes. To address this gap in the literature, the present study examined the relative effects of Americans' stereotypes and processing fluency on their attitudes toward foreign-accented speech. Americans ( $N = 243$ ) listened to Mandarin-, French-, Hindi-, Russian-, and Vietnamese-accented speakers reading a short story in English. To ensure listeners correctly identified all speakers' national origin, they were told where each speaker was from (e.g., China) prior to listening to that speaker's recording. After each recording, participants reported their processing fluency (e.g., "How easy was the speaker to understand?") and rated the speaker they heard on various competence (e.g., intelligent) and warmth (e.g., friendly) traits. After listening to and rating all speakers, participants reported their competence and warmth stereotypes toward various national groups, including those reflecting the speakers' national origin (i.e., China, France, India, Russia, Vietnam). For speakers of each national accent, corresponding national competence stereotypes predicted ratings of the speakers' competence (but not warmth), whereas corresponding national warmth stereotypes predicted ratings of the speakers' warmth (but not competence). For each national accent, listeners' processing fluency predicted ratings of the speakers' competence and warmth, even after controlling for the effects of stereotypes. Taken together, the results provide strong evidence that attitudes toward foreign-accented speech are a function of *both* listeners' stereotypes and processing fluency.

**Marko Dragojevic** (PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara) is an associate professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Kentucky. His research focuses on language and interpersonal/intergroup communication.

**Zane A. Dayton** is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Communication at the University of Kentucky. His research examines how message language features and source characteristics influence persuasion. He further seeks to understand the cognitive processes underlying these effects.

---

## “I Can Hear You”? The Interplay of Accents and Pitch Variability on Humanness Perceptions and Empathy

JANIN ROESSEL<sup>1</sup> AND DENNIS UHRIG<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>Leibniz-Institute for the German Language, Germany; <sup>2</sup>University of Mannheim, Germany)

---

Humanness perceptions and empathy are crucial for interpersonal as well as intergroup perceptions. Research attests to the humanizing quality of spoken language in perceptions as speech confers emotions and the sense of a lively mind. Does this hold for different language varieties, specifically native- vs. nonnative-accented speech? In a first step, we investigated whether a set of random native versus nonnative speech samples ( $N = 200$  from the IDEA corpus) systematically differed in pitch variability, a critical cue for humanness ascriptions. This was only evident by tendency and standard deviations among native and nonnative samples were large. Therefore, we orthogonally varied accent (native vs. nonnative) and pitch variability (high vs. low) in two experiments. Study 1 (US sample,  $N = 192$ ) focused on humanness perceptions. Participants rated speakers based on read-out audio-samples from the IDEA corpus. High pitch variability elicited higher humanness ratings than low pitch variability, but this effect was weaker for nonnative speakers. Given low pitch variability, relative ratings of nonnative versus native speakers depended on participants' prejudice level: Participants with low prejudice rated nonnative speakers higher than native speakers; this reversed for participants with high prejudice. Study 2 (German sample,  $N = 306$ ) focused on empathy ratings based on short audio clips, in which speakers described a difficult personal situation. Again, high pitch variability was linked to higher humanness ratings. However, affective empathy was rather elicited by low pitch variability, likely due to the afflicted context of the speakers. As in Study 1, relative ratings given low pitch variability were moderated by prejudice: Affective empathy was more pronounced toward nonnative vs. native speakers given low prejudice; this reversed given high prejudice. These findings highlight the importance of investigating different linguistic variables in tandem while also considering expectations in the specific context and characteristics of the sample.

**Janin Rössel** is a social psychologist and postdoctoral researcher at the Leibniz-Institute for the German Language in Mannheim, Germany, where she focuses on language research and citizen science. Her research addresses the interplay of language and social cognition, with particular interests in language varieties, linguistic diversity, gender-inclusive language, and methodologies.

**Dennis Uhrig** holds a master degree in psychology and focuses his research on the intersection of linguistics and social cognition. He is affiliated with the University of Mannheim and currently works for the United Nations on topics around learning & development, as well as diversity, equity, and inclusion.

---

# **Straighter Voice Information Leads to Straighter Perceptions: Causal Implications for Sexual Orientation Perception Using a Voice-Morphing Approach**

SVEN KACHEL<sup>1,2</sup>, MANUEL PÖHLMANN<sup>3</sup> AND CHRISTINE NUSSBAUM<sup>3</sup>

(<sup>1</sup> University of Kaiserslautern-Landau, Germany; <sup>2</sup> University of Helsinki, Finland; <sup>3</sup> Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany)

---

Perception of sexual orientation based on voices and subsequent social consequences is gaining a lot of attention in academia and beyond. Of particular interest is whether and how vocal information is affecting auditory impressions as lesbian/gay vs. straight. However, available evidence is mostly correlational, and experimental studies digitally manipulating specific acoustic parameters are rare and restricted in generalizability (e.g., one speaker representing each group). Accordingly, previous studies only allow limited causal insights into the effects of vocal information on perceived sexual orientation. In the present research, we aim to answer: Do listeners' perceptions of heterosexuality increase with increasing heterosexuality information in the voice? Does caricaturing sexual orientation information in the voice lead to more consistent impressions of sexual orientation? Which acoustic parameters are driving perceptions of sexual orientation? In two online experiments ( $N = 308$ ), we applied a voice morphing approach to systematically manipulate sexual orientation information of vocal stimuli. Based on 20 original voices (5 lesbian/gay and straight women and men), all same-gender speakers differing in sexual orientation were matched resulting in 25 speaker pairs. For each pair, a morphing continuum was created varying the level of lesbian/gay vs. straight voice information: 0% (original lesbian/gay voice), 20%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 80%, 100% (original heterosexual voice). Stimuli were rated on perceived sexual orientation. As expected, increasing heterosexuality information leads to more heterosexual responses which were pronounced for male (vs. female) speakers. When additionally creating voice caricatures [-40%, -20%, 120%, 140%] in Experiment 1, ratings were more consistent with lesbian/gay speakers' sexual orientation. When additionally creating partial morphs varying f0 or timbre information only in Experiment 2, a similar pattern occurred. Thus, by using voice morphing for a highly controlled manipulation of vocal sexual orientation, we were able to demonstrate the causal effects of voice information on perceived sexual orientation.

**Sven Kachel**, PhD, is a social psychologist and phonetician at the University of Kaiserslautern-Landau, Germany, where he teaches 'Communication in Intergroup Contexts' among others. His research focuses on stereotypes, social identity, and impression formation related to voices and other signals (e.g., morphosyntax, clothing).

**Manuel Pöhlmann**, B.Sc., is a young researcher in cognitive neuroscience at the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, Germany. He has published research on perceived naturalness and perceived sexual orientation in voices. His main expertise lies in conducting experimental online research.

**Christine Nussbaum**, PhD, is a researcher in cognitive neuroscience at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany, where she teaches "Neuropsychology of auditory processing". Her research focuses on voice perception, with a specific interest in emotional expression and voice naturalness. She applies various methods including voice morphing and electroencephalography (EEG).

---

## Can agentic messages help? Linguistic strategies to counteract voice-based sexual orientation discrimination

FABIO FASOLI<sup>1</sup> AND MAGDALENA FORMANOWICZ<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup> University of Surrey, United Kingdom; <sup>2</sup> University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw, Poland)

---

Voice is often considered a cue of social categories including sexual orientation and, hence, listeners engage in the so-called ‘auditory gaydar’. Such beliefs and judgments have consequences. Gay men who believe to sound stereotypically ‘gay’ expect to be stigmatized because of their voices. Also, gay-sounding men are discriminated against when they apply for managerial roles because they are perceived as lacking agency. However, research has mostly focused on voice-based discrimination, and little is known about the interplay between how a person sounds and what they say. For instance, uttering agentic messages is associated with positive speakers’ evaluations. In this project, we examined the intersection between speakers’ voices and message content. We considered both the speakers’ and listeners’ perspectives and two countries, the United Kingdom and Poland. In Study 1a ( $N = 256$ , British and Polish participants identifying as gay or bisexual men) and Study 1b ( $N = 216$ , British participants who identified as gay men) speakers uttered agentic (vs. neutral) messages and we assessed their self-perception as gay-sounding, self-attribution of agency, and discrimination expectancy in a hiring situation. We found that, the more speakers self-perceived as gay sounding, the more they expected to be discriminated against. However, uttering agentic (vs. neutral) messages made the speakers self-perceived as more agentic and this decreased their discrimination expectancy. These two effects were independent of each other. In Study 2 ( $N = 466$ , British and Polish participants), heterosexual listeners listened to gay- and straight-sounding speakers introduced as applicants for a managerial role while uttering either neutral or agentic messages. Participants rated them in terms of agency and employability. Gay-sounding speakers uttering agentic messages were less likely to be discriminated against than when uttering neutral messages. The message did not impact employability judgments for straight-sounding speakers. Results were similar in the UK and Poland.

**Fabio Fasoli** is Senior Lecturer in Social Psychology at the University of Surrey where he teaches ‘Social Psychology of Language and Communication’ among other modules. His research interests are auditory gaydar, impression formation, voice-based discrimination, derogatory language, and language reclamation.

**Magdalena Formanowicz** is an assistant professor at the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw. Her research focuses on social cognition, agency, and language. She uses a multimethod approach that incorporates experimental studies and analyses of large textual data to investigate language pertinent to discrimination and intergroup relations.

---

## Perception of non-binary individuals through the lens of their language, appearance, and voice

KAROLINA HANSEN<sup>1,2</sup>, DOMINIK PUCHAŁA<sup>1</sup>, WERONIKA TKACZYK<sup>1</sup> AND  
KATARZYNA ŻÓŁTAK<sup>1</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>University of Warsaw, Poland; <sup>2</sup>Leibniz Institute of the German Language,  
Germany)

---

People can express their identity in different ways, one of which is through language. Non-binary people often speak in a gender-neutral way and use specific language forms. This language expresses their identity but can also in itself shape how others perceive them. Furthermore, these linguistic forms do not occur in vacuum, they are often combined with appearance and voice. All these taken together affect how non-binary people are perceived by others. In three studies we examined the language and well-being of non-binary people (Study 1,  $N = 275$ ), how they are perceived through their language (Study 2,  $N = 130$ ), and how appearance and voice influence the impressions based on language (Study 3,  $N = 242$ ). The research was conducted in Polish – a language that has many gender markers. The results of Study 1 showed that 66% of our non-binary participants used gender-neutral language. In the experimental Study 2, participants read a masculine/feminine and a gender-neutral text of a non-binary person. The non-binary person was rated less competent, colder, and was less socially accepted than a man or a woman. This negative evaluation seemed to be attributable to unfamiliarity with gender-neutral language and its lower comprehensibility. Study 3 combined appearance, timbre of voice, and linguistic forms non-binary people use. Results showed that masculine-sounding non-binary people were perceived more negatively and were less accepted than binary people. The effect did not occur for feminine-sounding non-binary people. Furthermore, the effect occurred both for masculine- and neutral-looking non-binary people. Altogether, the results suggest a stronger role of the tone of voice than of the appearance in forming impressions of gender-nonconforming people. Our research offers a more holistic understanding of how language discrimination intersects with external characteristics of non-binary people.

**Karolina Hansen** is an assistant professor at the Center for Research on Prejudice at the University of Warsaw and a researcher at the Leibniz Institute for the German Language in Mannheim. Her research interests are language and accent attitudes, gender-neutral language, non-binary language, or linguistic purism.

**Dominik Puchała** is a PhD student at the Center for Research on Prejudice at the University of Warsaw. His research interests focus on three areas: the reclaimed slurs, the emancipatory strategies of the LGBT+ movement, and the activities of the far right in Poland.

**Weronika Tkaczyk** is a student at the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Warsaw. She is interested in experiences of non-binary people and on linguistic aspects of their daily life.

**Katarzyna Żółtak** is a graduate of the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Warsaw. She is a psychologist, sexologist, and a sex coach in training.

## Perceptions of political charisma: Linguistic cues of in- and outgroup differences

JUDIT VÁRI AND TAMARA RATHCKE

(University of Konstanz, Germany)

(Organizational) psychological studies explore charisma as a character trait attributed to individuals who are categorized as group leaders by group members (Hogg, 2001; Platow et al., 2006). The Social Identity Framework of Leadership stresses the importance of such leaders to be particularly typical group members (Hogg, 2001; van Knippenberg & Hogg, 2003). On the other hand, linguistic studies on charismatic speech investigated pragmatic, semantic, morphosyntactic and phonetic features (Biadys et al., 2008; Niebuhr et al., 2016; Rosenberg & Hirschberg, 2009) without theoretical frameworks of identity processes. So far, no study investigated linguistic cues of in- and outgroup membership and individuals' social categorization as charismatic leaders (Hogg, 2001; Lord & Hall, 2004) in the political context. This paper explores in two perception experiments whether politicians' perceived charisma varies depending on their gender as well as the language variety of their speech (vernacular Swabian vs. Standard German), both being indicators of group membership. Perceptions of political charisma were measured with Auditory Implicit Association Tests (IAT) (Campbell-Kibler, 2012; Greenwald et al., 1998; Rosseel, 2022) exploring implicit perceptions of charisma, and Matched Guise Experiments (Acar & Loureiro-Rodríguez, 2022; Lambert et al., 1966) will enable us to investigate explicit perceptions. Results of the implicit measures supported our hypotheses regarding a negative impact of language varieties, since vernacular speech was perceived as overall less charismatic compared to Standard German by out-group participants. Surprisingly, we didn't find any impact of gender on implicit charisma perceptions, in contrast to previous findings on gender-stereotypical perceptions of leaders (Chiao et al., 2008; Huddy & Terkildsen, 1993). A new study currently measures explicit charisma perceptions where we expect mainly egalitarian judgments of charisma regarding female and male politicians and similarly, regarding vernacular and standard speech. However, we predict a positive impact of vernacular speech on charisma perceptions for listeners with more right-wing party affiliations, political ideology and populist attitudes. Finally, we expect previously established phonetic correlates of charisma (e.g. pitch range, speech rate) to be universal across group membership.

Acar, E. F., & Loureiro-Rodríguez, V. (2022). The Matched-Guise Technique. In R. Kircher & L. Zipp (Eds.), *Research Methods in Language Attitudes* (pp. 185-202). Cambridge University Press.

Biadys, F., Hirschberg, J., Rosenberg, A., & Dakka, W. (2008, May 6-9). Comparing American and Palestinian perceptions of charisma using acoustic-prosodic and lexical analysis. 4th Conference on Speech Prosody, Campinas, Brazil.

Campbell-Kibler, K. (2012). The Implicit Association Test and sociolinguistic meaning. *Lingua*, 122(7), 753-763.

Chiao, J. Y., Bowman, N. E., & Gill, H. (2008). The political gender gap: gender bias in facial inferences that predict voting behavior. *PloS one*, 3(10), e3666-e3666. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0003666>

Greenwald, A. G., McGhee, D. E., & Schwartz, J. L. K. (1998). Measuring individual differences in implicit cognition: The implicit association test. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 74(6), 1464-1480.

Hogg, M. A. (2001). A social identity theory of leadership: Theoretical origins, research findings, and conceptual developments. *Personality and social psychology review*, 5(3), 184-200.

Huddy, L., & Terkildsen, N. (1993). Gender stereotypes and the perception of male and female candidates. *American journal of political science*, 119-147.

Lambert, W. E., Frankel, H., & Tucker, G. (1966). Judging Personality Through Speech: A French-Canadian Example. *Journal of Communication*, 16(4), 305-321. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1460-2466.1966.tb00044.x>

Lord, R., & Hall, R. (2004). Identity, Leadership Categorization, and Leadership Schema. In D. van Knippenberg & M. Hogg (Eds.), *Leadership and Power: Identity Processes in Groups and Organizations* (pp. 57 – 72). Sage Publications.

Niebuhr, O., Brem, A., Novák-Tóth, E., & Voße, J. (2016). Charisma in business speeches: A contrastive acoustic-prosodic analysis of Steve Jobs and Mark Zuckerberg. Proc. 8th International Conference of Speech Prosody, Boston, USA,

Platow, M. J., van Knippenberg, D., & Haslam, S. A. (2006). A special gift we bestow on you for being representative of us: Considering leader charisma from a self-categorization perspective. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 45(2), 303-320.

Rosenberg, A., & Hirschberg, J. (2009). Charisma perception from text and speech. *Speech Communication*, 51(7), 640-655.

Rosseel, L. (2022). The Implicit Association Test Paradigm. In L. Zipp & R. Kircher (Eds.), *Research Methods in Language Attitudes* (pp. 250-268). Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/DOI: 10.1017/9781108867788.020>

van Knippenberg, D., & Hogg, M. A. (2003). A social identity model of leadership effectiveness in organizations. *Research in Organizational Behavior*, 25, 243-295. [https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/S0191-3085\(03\)25006-1](https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/S0191-3085(03)25006-1)

**Judit Vari** is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Cluster of Excellence "The Politics of Inequality" at the University of Konstanz where she explores linguistic features which trigger or impede categorisations of individuals as charismatic leaders. Judit's research interests include implicit and explicit evaluations of speakers and language varieties, in particular, in minority contexts.

**Tamara Rathcke** is professor of English Linguistics at the University of Konstanz (Germany) and the principal investigator of the project "Perception of Political Charisma in Low-Status Speakers" that aims to investigate how language contributes to processes and constructs of social cognition. She specialises in phonetics and laboratory phonology with a focus on prosody.

---

## The use of language to manage face in a collectivistic culture

WEN YUAN<sup>1</sup> AND SIQI LYU<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>University of International Business and Economics, China; <sup>2</sup>University of Tartu, Estonia)

---

**Introduction.** The Chinese culture is a collectivistic culture and features an interdependent self-construal. In this study, we investigate experimentally how Chinese speakers use language to manage face in social communication.

**Methods.** We asked participants to give verbal choice to disclose positive information about themselves. We designed two types of conversations: participants were asked to disclose information about themselves to the interlocutor in a dyad, and participants were asked to disclose information about themselves to the interlocutor but in front of a third party (i.e., in a triad). Participants were asked to choose from a set of Chinese lexical items that form a scale of goodness of performance <“Very bad,” “So-so,” “OK,” “Very good”>, followed by a question that tapped into their motives in choosing the lexical item.

**Results.** We found that participants used significantly less “Very good” when disclosing positive information about themselves in front of a third party (i.e., in a triad) than when disclosing positive information about themselves in a dyad. Participants tended to use a weaker term “OK” in the former situation, motivated by being honest and saving the third party’s face.

**Discussion.** The results showed that Chinese participants’ language choice in self-disclosure is affected by the presence of a third party. Chinese participants are concerned about the third party’s face although they are talking about themselves. Unlike in individualistic cultures, where face is associated mostly with self-worth, self-presentation, and self-value, in collectivistic cultures like Chinese, face is more at the relational level. Chinese participants’ interdependent construal of self emphasizes the importance of relational connectedness. Our results provide evidence that culture and self-construal affect language use in social communication.

**Wen Yuan** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Linguistics, School of International Studies, University of International Business and Economics, Beijing. Her research interests include cognitive accounts of pragmatic interpretation, and the interface between social psychology and pragmatics.

**Siqi Lyu** is a research fellow in psychology of language at the Institute of Psychology, University of Tartu. Combining the fields of linguistics and psychology, she has been studying how people process information at different language levels. Her research interests include cross-linguistic auditory perception, language and social psychology, and sentence processing.

## **Linguistic background, motivation and convergence towards Finnish speakers. A study among young Swedish-speaking Finns**

A. LASZLO VINCZE  
(University of Helsinki, Finland)

---

Based on the tenets of bilingual accommodation (Sachdev et al., 2012), the purpose of this research is to address the motivational context of convergence towards Finnish among young Swedish-speaking Finns. The empirical material was collected among students in Swedish language secondary schools in Southern Finland ( $N = 179$ ). A mediational analysis with a robust maximum likelihood estimation was employed to examine the theoretical model. For the most part, the results supported the proposed relationships. The linguistic background of the participants guided both identity and competence motives but not the motives to increase communication efficiency. However, when predicting convergence towards Finnish, a cognitive process emerged: while identity motives had no significant effect on convergence towards Finnish, both competence motives, and motives to increase communication efficiency, had a significant and positive effect on convergence towards Finnish. Findings and implications are discussed in regard to bilingual accommodation and the patterns of the particular intergroup context.

Sachdev, I., Giles, H., & Pauwels, A. (2012). Accommodating multilinguality. In Tej K. Bhatia & William C. Ritchie (eds.), *The handbook of bilingualism and multilingualism* (pp. 391-416). Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

**Laszlo Vincze** (PhD, University of Helsinki 2013) is a university lecturer at the Swedish School of Social Science at the University of Helsinki. His research focuses mostly on bilingualism and communication.

**“I just wanted to run away as soon as possible”: Hong Kong locals’ communication accommodation and Mainland Chinese students’ willingness to communicate**

XIAOYAN IVY WU

(The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, China)

---

Mainland Chinese students (MCSs) represent the predominant non-local student group in Hong Kong and their cross-cultural adaptation has attracted research attention. However, most research was not specifically focused on their communication with Hong Kong locals and, was atheoretical. We take a language and social psychology approach by invoking Communication Accommodation Theory (CAT) and Willingness to Communicate in a Second Language (L2 WTC) to study intergroup communication between MCSs and locals. Twenty-eight MCSs journalled their encounters with locals, including: a) a brief description of the encounter; b) the language(s) used for the interaction; c) their evaluations of the local, themselves and the encounter; and d) if given a free choice, their willingness to communicate with this local again. They journalled their positive and negative encounters for seven days, either consecutively or non-consecutively. A total of 204 positive encounters and 193 negative encounters were collected between April and August 2023. Preliminary coding revealed that common contexts for MCSs to interact with locals included dining at restaurants, shopping, taking a taxi or public transit, and having social interactions with local students and friends. As expected, they often assigned positive attributions to accommodative locals (e.g., warm, polite, kind and friendly) and negative evaluations to nonaccommodative locals (e.g., indifferent, rude, impatient and unfriendly). These evaluations were closely related to their willingness to speak to this local again. This study explored intergroup communication and how CAT and L2 WTC can work together to better account for such communication.

**Xiaoyan Ivy WU** is a PhD candidate with the Department of English and Communication at Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Student Representative of IALSP. Her PhD thesis investigates the role of language and communication in Mainland Chinese students’ cross-cultural adaptation to Hong Kong.

## The appeal of collective victimhood rhetoric by leaders: Implications for intergroup relations

SUCHARITA BELAVADI<sup>1</sup> AND MICHAEL A. HOGG<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>FLAME University, India; <sup>2</sup>Claremont Graduate University, USA)

---

A core attribute of populist leader rhetoric is a narrative of collective victimhood (Hogg & Gøtzsche-Astrup, 2021). Populist leaders portray the *sovereign* or the majority as being historically victimized and held back from greatness by specific outgroups. We examine the implications of such rhetoric on intergroup relations, especially when majority groups feel a sense of existential uncertainty. Specifically, does endorsing leader victimhood rhetoric drive high-status majority group members to essentialize historical status and greatness through a sense of entitlement to such high status.

This research builds on previous research (Belavadi & Hogg, 2023) that found that when the religious majority in India perceived high vitality among the religious minority, the majority experienced a higher sense of existential uncertainty and endorsed leader rhetoric of collective victimhood to a greater extent.

Hindu participants (N = 149) recruited from Mturk India were randomly assigned to read either ingroup victimhood speech or pro-diversity speech by a political leader following measures of ingroup existential uncertainty and outgroup vitality. Participants completed measures of leader preference and the extent to which they essentialized ingroup status and glory. The aim was to examine if adopting a narrative of victimhood drives groups to essentialize or view attributes of ingroup status as inborn.

Findings indicated that when a leader who espoused victimhood was endorsed, ingroup greatness and resilience were essentialized to a greater extent, under both high and low uncertainty. Ingroup status was justified as inborn and natural, thereby shaping intergroup status differences as unbridgeable and immutable.

Belavadi, S., & Hogg, M. A. (2023). If they rise, will we fall? Social identity uncertainty and preference for collective victimhood rhetoric. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 53(8), 743-751.

Hogg, M. A., & Gøtzsche-Astrup, O. (2021). Self-uncertainty and populism: Why we endorse populist ideologies, identify with populist groups, and support populist leaders. In J. P. Forgas, W. D. Crano, & K. Fiedler (Eds.), *The psychology of populism: The tribal challenge to liberal democracy* (pp. 197-218). Routledge.

**Sucharita Belavadi** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences at FLAME University in India. She received her PhD in psychology from Claremont Graduate University. Her research focuses on intergroup communication and examines the ways in which influential ingroup sources, such as leaders, frame social identity for followers. She is also interested in examining ethnolinguistic vitality in the context of Indian languages.

**Michael A. Hogg** is Professor of Social Psychology and Director of the Social Identity Lab at Claremont Graduate University, in Los Angeles, an Honorary Professor at the University of Kent, in the UK, a former Australian Research Council Professorial Fellow, and a past President of the Society of Experimental Social Psychology. He is a *Fellow of the British Academy*, a *Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia*, and the recipient of numerous distinguished achievement awards. His research on social identity, intergroup relations, group processes, influence, and leadership has been cited 120,000 times (400 publications, h-index 140).

## The perception of linguistic bias in news media: Can you tell if your news is biased?

TRACI-IEE CHRISTIANSON AND KATHERINE A. COLLINS  
(University of Saskatchewan, Canada)

---

Researchers believe that language and bias are inextricably linked, functioning to reinforce and perpetuate the stereotypes that underlie discrimination and inequity (Collins & Clément, 2012). While linguistic bias manifests in a variety of forms, the most commonly studied is the differential use of linguistic abstraction. When we use varying levels of linguistic abstraction to describe the same behaviour, we communicate different information. When we do this systematically based on our beliefs about the group to which the actor belongs, it becomes linguistic bias (Maass et al., 1989; Wigboldus et al., 2000). Few studies have investigated the consequences of exposure to linguistic bias in communications that reach wide audiences, such as broadcast news media, limiting our ability to conclude that linguistic bias is responsible for the perpetuation of harmful stereotypes. In addition, while research has demonstrated that linguistic bias is produced without awareness (Franco & Maass, 1996), it is unknown whether the same can be said for its reception. Yet research has demonstrated that one's awareness of bias can mediate its impacts (Monteith & Mark, 2005; Pope et al., 2018). Thus, the twin purposes of this study were to investigate whether participants exposed to linguistic bias via a broadcast news report are (1) influenced by it and (2) aware of it. With few exceptions, it was found that exposure to linguistic bias did not influence participants' perception of the report, the reporter, the actor, or the group to which the actor belongs. Interestingly, however, participants exposed to biased language were three times as likely to identify language as biased when compared to those exposed to unbiased language. It could be argued, then, that participants' awareness of exposure to linguistic bias mitigated the effect of exposure, in line with previous research.

Collins, K. A., & Clément, R. (2012). Language and Prejudice. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 31(4), 376–396. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0261927X12446611>

Franco, F. M. and Maass, A. (1996). Implicit versus explicit strategies of out-group discrimination: The role of intentional control in biased language use and reward allocation. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 15(3), 335–359

Maass, A., Salvi, D., Arcuri, L., & Semin, G. (1989). Language use in intergroup contexts. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 57(6), 981–993. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.57.6.981>

Monteith, M. J., & Mark, A. Y. (2005). Changing one's prejudiced ways: Awareness, affect, and self-regulation. *European Review of Social Psychology*, 16, 113–154. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10463280500229882>

Pope, D. G., Price, J., & Wolfers, J. (2018). Awareness reduces racial bias. *Management Science*, 64(11), 4988–4995. <https://doi.org/10.1287/mnsc.2017.2901>

Wigboldus, D. H. J., Semin, G. R., & Spears, R. (2000). How do we communicate Stereotypes? Linguistic bases and inferential consequences. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 78(1), 5–18.

**Traci Christianson** is a graduate student working towards a Masters of Applied Social Psychology at the University of Saskatchewan. Her research interests include the social psychological processes related to social and health equity. This includes the communication, and thus the perpetuation and maintenance, of biased beliefs about various sociocultural groups.

**Katherine A. Collins** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology and Health Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. Her research interests include issues relevant to culture, language, and identity. This includes the role of language in the cultural transmission, in which sociocultural biases are reflected and reinforced by language.

---

## An automated approach to the detection of linguistic bias

KATHERINE A. COLLINS<sup>1</sup> AND RYAN T. BOYD<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>University of Saskatchewan, Canada; <sup>2</sup>Stony Brook University, USA)

---

Linguistic bias occurs when the same behaviour is systematically and differentially described for members of different groups. Linguistic abstraction is the most researched linguistic mechanism by which descriptions differ and is defined by the Linguistic Category Model (LCM; Semin & Fiedler, 1988), which organizes different categories of words along a continuum. At the most abstract end, nouns describe the person performing the behaviour while at the most concrete end, descriptive action verbs describe the behaviour itself. People select the most appropriate category automatically and without thought and, in general, tend to choose abstract words for belief-consistent behaviour and concrete words for belief-inconsistent behaviour. Thus, by examining linguistic abstraction in a text, we can understand the implicit expectations of the author. The linguistic bias paradigm has implications for the role of language in how stereotypes are shared. However, research in this area is currently stifled by the time-consuming and resource-intensive method of manually coding for linguistic bias.

In this study, we aim to develop an automated method to code for linguistic bias. To do this, we compiled various automated methods to quantify abstraction and sentiment. This involved various forms of sentence tokenization, sentiment analysis, abstraction coding, and the creation of a bias index. We then compared manual and automated methods of bias detection on real texts.

All automated methods provided bias scores that were a good approximation of manually coded bias scores, as demonstrated by significant and similarly sized correlations. None, however, were able to fully replicate the original pattern of results. This is line with what is typically expected from natural language processing, which has many benefits but involves a trade-off in accuracy. The development of an automated method to detect linguistic bias will fundamentally change how research is conducted within this paradigm – making research both easier and quicker.

Semin, G. R. and Fiedler, K. (1988). The cognitive functions of linguistic categories in describing persons: Social cognition and language. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 54(4), 558–568.

**Katherine A. Collins** is a Métis scholar and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology and Health Studies at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, who is especially interested in issues of language, culture, and identity. She is also a parent to a 10-month old boy, and a reading and chocolate enthusiast.

Dr. **Ryan L. Boyd** is an Associate Research Professor and the Principal Research Scientist for the HLAB (Human Language Analysis Beings) at Stony Brook University, USA. He is a psychologist and computational social scientist. He is also a huge fan of good coffee, pizza, and big ol' friendly dogs.

## **Employable expertise: an identity with flexibility**

MINNA PAANASALO AND MIIRA NISKA  
(University of Helsinki, Finland)

---

Researchers and political actors typically associate the change of working life with increasing flexibility and atypical work relations like part-time work, project and temporary work, and self-employment. In this context, even a university degree doesn't guarantee permanent, full-time employment, and even young university graduates are at risk of unemployment, under-employment, and social exclusion. In addition to the diploma, young graduates are expected to be able to communicate their competence to potential employers.

Universities as educational institutions are also facing the challenge and pressure to produce employable graduates with self-awareness of their competencies. Assistance for the career-decision-making and job search process is often provided in form of career counseling. Career counseling as an interactional practice is based on an ideal of supporting the client's agency in their career-decision-making process, in which increasing self-knowledge is a central task.

With the means of discursive psychology and a set of data consisting of video-recorded one-on-one career counseling sessions, we ask: How is competence constructed and negotiated between the counselor and the university student, in relation to questions of employability? How are some constructions made more real or useful than others?

In our analysis, we observe a pattern of conversation where a counselor and generalist students negotiate understandings of competence characterized by a comparison between academic expertise and professionalism. Ideal academic expertise is presented, by the counselor, in terms of flexibility. This understanding of academic expertise is then promoted as a more favorable orientation to present work life. The presented orientation is not tied to a profession, but rather to an academic identity built on recognizing acquired academic skills and following one's interests. The counselor's argument is backed by positioning the counselor as an expert of employment and the student as anxious or less knowledgeable.

**Minna Paanasalo:** M.Soc.Sc. Paanasalo is a doctoral researcher in the SPIN-project. Her special interests are work-related counseling interaction and studying how skills, competence and expertise are negotiated in relation to career and employability in different contexts of work life.

**Miira Niska:** D.Soc.Sc, title of docent. Niska is a university lecturer in social psychology. Her research interests include work transitions, agency, entrepreneurship, and qualitative methodologies and research methods.

## Session 11 (Room M-648)

### **Talking lung cancer stigma: The role of culture and language**

---

LIZ JONES<sup>1</sup>, ESTHER ONG<sup>1</sup> AND STEFANO OCCHIPINTI<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>Monash University, Malaysia; <sup>2</sup>Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, China)

---

Lung cancer is the second most prevalent malignancy, with the highest mortality rates. Due to its association with smoking, lung cancer patients often reported feeling stigmatised. However, there has been limited exploration of how the general public perceives lung cancer patients, with even less research considering the role of culture in shaping lung cancer stigma. Our study examined how Australians and Hong Kongers describe individuals with lung cancer. 303 participants ( $N_{\text{Aus}} = 176$ ;  $N_{\text{HK}} = 127$ ) were recruited from a commercial panel provider to complete an online survey. Participants were presented with a vignette describing a hypothetical lung cancer patient, and were asked to describe their perceptions in an open-ended response. We found significant differences across cultures in both the content and the language used by participants, including differences in perceptions of warmth, competence, morality and luck of people with lung cancer. In addition, Hong Kongers who responded in Cantonese vs English differed in their descriptions. Hong Kongers were more likely to perceive lung cancer as a consequence of patients' actions, indicating higher stigma when compared to Australians. Our study highlights the importance of considering cultural diversity and the language a survey is completed in when researching health stigma.

**Prof Liz Jones** is Head of Department of Psychology at Monash University Malaysia and Immediate Past President and a Fellow of IALSP. Her research interests are in intergroup and organisational communication, health stigma and life transitions, with a particular focus on the health sector and the role of culture.

**Esther Ong** completed her Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) in 2023 undertaking a thesis on this topic. She has also published research on COVID-19 stigma. She is currently working as a research assistant at Monash University Malaysia.

**Stefano Occhipinti** is Professor of Health Communication and Director, International Research Centre for the Advancement of Health Communication, Department of English and Communication, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. I research health and communication in sociocultural contexts. My work aims to improve the lives of people with health conditions, and examines how people perceive and talk about health conditions and those who live with them, especially in relation to wellbeing and stigma.

## **Examining native-speakerism among third language (L3) learners: A case study at a Thai international college**

HAI LIN

(Srinakharinwirot University, Thailand)

---

The notion of the 'native speaker' has historically characterized the realm of English language teaching, giving rise to the pervasive and often unquestioned ideology of native-speakerism (Holliday, 2015). However, with the arrival of globalization, a great many societies have taken on a multilingual landscape. While English continues to hold an unwavering status, other languages such as Chinese, Spanish, and French have also garnered considerable attention alongside English. Yet, there is a lack of research exploring attitudes towards teachers of these languages. To address this gap, this study, utilizing drawings created by L3 learners as well as individual semi-structured interviews, aims to investigate whether native-speakerism extends to the teaching of these third languages. By examining learners' perceptions towards their L3 teachers, the study attempts to shed light on the presence and impact of native-speakerism within multilingual language education contexts.

This study was conducted at an international college in Thailand where L3 is a mandatory course for both second- and third-year students. Students can choose one of six languages based on their interest: Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish. Notably, Chinese, and French instructors are native speakers, while the other L3 language courses are taught by Thai teachers. Thirteen students were recruited via purposeful sampling as informants for this study. The findings reveal that all participants idealize native speakers as L3 teachers, indicating the persistence of native-speakerism. However, this preference does not translate into negative attitudes towards local L3 teachers. Instead, participants tend to hold equally positive attitudes towards both native and nonnative teachers. It is teachers' pronunciation and intonation that play a vital part in their perceptions. Moreover, some participants see native-speaking teachers as cultural ambassadors, which affects their preferences for studying with L3 native speakers.

Holliday, A. (2015). Native-speakerism: Taking the concept forward and achieving cultural belief. In A. Swan, P. Aboshiha, & A. Holliday (Eds.), *(En)countering native-speakerism: Global perspectives* (pp. 11-25). Palgrave Advances in Languages & Linguistics.

**Hai Lin** holds a PhD in applied linguistics and currently serves as a foreign lecturer in the Department of Language and Intercultural Communication at the International College for Sustainability Studies, Srinakharinwirot University. His research interests span across several areas, including teacher identity, discourse analysis, intercultural learning, and sociolinguistics.

**How gossip rules the world: Three hypotheses**

NICHOLAS EMLER

(University of Surrey, United Kingdom)

---

Gossip has had a miserable reputation in public discourse. Perhaps for this reason it was long ignored as a topic worthy of serious consideration (anthropology was always an exception). However, matters have changed dramatically in recent year with, according to one source, over 6,000 scholarly articles across multiple disciplines now referring to gossip. One driver of this change has been recognition that the capacity to communicate via language sets humankind apart from all other social species. More specifically, language allows humans uniquely to share social information and this capacity makes possible forms of society no other vertebrate can achieve. One proposal to emerge from these insights is that gossip enables societies on a much larger scale by multiplying the number of relationships that can be sustained. A more influential notion is that gossip underpins the hyper-cooperativeness that distinguishes human society by inhibiting bad behaviour; its main significance is as an efficient form of social control. I argue that a third consequence is more important than either: gossip supports prediction. In developing my argument, I review evidence that humans act like psychometricians to extract predictive value from messy data (gossip). In the process I critically assess two other claims regularly associated with contemporary treatments of gossip, that it is irredeemably corrupted by error and deliberate distortion, and that human social and therefore conversational life is largely a succession of one-shot interactions between strangers.

**Nicholas Emler**, currently Emeritus Professor, University of Surrey, has also held the title of professor at the universities of Dundee, Rene Descartes – Paris V, Oxford and the London School of Economics. His research falls under the broad heading of moral psychology: development of moral judgment, delinquency, politics, leadership, and gossip and reputation. Publications include: *Adolescence and delinquency: the collective management of reputation* (with Stephen Reicher), 1995; *Self esteem: the costs and causes of low self worth*, 2000.

---

## Exploring pronoun disclosure in email signature blocks: An experimental study

REBECCA BAUMLER<sup>1</sup>, NICHOLAS A. PALOMARES<sup>1</sup> AND CAMERON W. PIERCY<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>University of Texas, United States; <sup>2</sup>University of Kansas, United States)

---

Including gender identity markers such as pronouns or a trans flag emoji in email signature blocks offers important identity cues, especially in digital contexts where other cues may be lacking. Such gender markers in email blocks aim to reduce misgendering; however, considering attitudes surrounding gender and trans identity, it is likely to have broader implications, including affecting perceptions like competence, warmth, and acceptance. Traditionally, women are associated with warmth, whereas men are associated with competence (e.g., Hsu et al., 2021). However, recent work has found that binary trans individuals are often seen as equally less communal and agentic, regardless of gender identity, compared to cisgender individuals (Gallagher & Bodenhausen, 2021). Additionally, aside from general transphobia, non-binary people often face heightened stigma and identity delegitimization compared to binary trans individuals (Miller & Grollman, 2015; Worthen, 2021).

To explore the above relationships, we used a three (pronoun: they, she, he) by two (trans flag emoji present versus not present) experimental design. Participants responded to a hypothetical email forwarded by a peer, wherein the peer asked for their opinion about whether a classmate could join the group; the email contained a signature block with or without the two gender identity markers of the classmate asking to join. We expect transphobia to predict lower warmth, competence, and acceptance for non-binary pronouns compared to the other pronouns and for all pronouns when the trans flag is present. Additionally, we hypothesize that misgendering will occur the most when the email signature contains they/them pronouns and when the trans flag is present for all pronouns. Lastly, we expect that participants' written responses will vary in terms of positive and negative emotion based on the assigned condition and levels of transphobia.

Gallagher, N. M. & Bodenhausen, G. V. (2021). Gender essentialism and the mental representation of transgender women and men: A multimethod investigation of stereotype content. *Cognition*, 217, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2021.104887>

Hsu, N., Badura, K. L., Newman, D. A., & Speech, M. E. P. (2021). Gender, “masculinity,” and “femininity”: A meta-analytic review of gender differences in agency and communion. *Psychological Bulletin*, 147(10), 987–1011. <https://doi.org/10.1037/bul0000343>

Miller, L. R., & Grollman, E. A. (2015). The social costs of gender nonconformity for transgender adults: Implications for discrimination and health. *Sociological Forum (Randolph, N.J.)*, 30(3), 809–831. <https://doi.org/10.1111/socf.12193>

Worthen, M. G. F. (2021). Why can't you just pick one? The stigmatization of non-binary/genderqueer people by cis and trans men and women: An empirical test of norm-centered stigma theory. *Sex Roles*, 85(5–6), 343–356. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-020-01216-z>

**Rebecca Baumler** (MA, University of Kansas) is a graduate student in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

**Nicholas A. Palomares** (PhD, University of California at Santa Barbara) is a Professor in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Texas at Austin in the Moody College of Communication. Their work focuses on message production and processing with emphases on social cognition, gender, cyberbullying, and misinformation. Dr. Palomares is Editor of the *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*.

**Cameron W. Piercy** (PhD, University of Oklahoma) is an Associate Professor in the Communication Studies Department at the University of Kansas and the founding director of the Human-Machine Communication (HMC) Lab. His work explores identities, organizational communication, and social networks.

## Intergroup cleavage bias in a job interview proposal: the role of cleft vs. uncleft sentences and connectors

ALAN HASSELBERGER AND MARIE-FRANCE AGNOLETTI

(Université de Lorraine, France)

Because of social norms, intergroup prejudice cannot be explicitly expressed (N'Dobo & Gardair, 2006). However, it can be identified through language indicators. This was highlighted by the study of explanations of (non-)hiring decisions. For instance, opposition (and comparison) connectors, used to justify a decision about an exocategory member, indicate a possible reality. Some connectors (or addition connectors), used in justifications concerning an endocategory candidate, reflect an asserted reality (Ghiglione, 1989; Ndobo, 2008). Other markers, such as cleft ("It's X that I'm selecting") vs. uncleft ("I'm selecting X") sentences, express a truthful speech (Tilmant & Hupet, 1990). The aim of this study is to point out the role and impact of the use of cleft sentences and connectors, in the explanations given to justify a job interview proposal for an endocategory vs. exocategory candidate. 193 participants (all-comers) completed a survey. They were presented with a recruitment narrative for a multi-skilled employee position involving two candidates. Their CVs were comparable for skills and experiences. Their category belonging (endocategory vs. exocategory) was specified by mentioning volunteer activity in an association. Participants were asked to select a candidate to continue the recruitment process and to explain their choice. The results showed no difference between the candidates in cleft sentences in the interview proposals ( $p < .60$ ). However, the way in which the proposal is formulated, has an impact on the use of connectors in explanations. Addition connectors are over-represented in explanations provided for the endocategory candidate, and opposition/comparison connectors in explanations on the exocategory, when the interview proposal is given by a cleft sentence rather than an uncleft sentence ( $\chi^2(6,793) = 17.34$ ,  $V = 0.06$ ,  $p < .01$ ). Cleft sentences express a clear interview proposal and show superiority of the endocategory candidate over the exocategory candidate (Downing, 2001). The results will be discussed in the light of the cleavage bias.

Downing, A. (2001). "Surely you knew!": Surely as a marker of evidentiality and stance. *Functions of Language*, 8(2), 251-282. <https://doi.org/10.1075/fol.8.2.05dow>

Ghiglione, R. (1989). Discours et attitudes : La notion de consistance à propos du politique. *Hermès, La Revue*, 2(5-6), 201-218.

Ndobo, A. (2008). «Je ne suis pas d'accord et je le fais savoir» Le discours de la réactance à la pression pro-exogroupe en situation de sélection professionnelle. *Les cahiers internationaux de psychologie sociale*, 2, 5-20.

N'Dobo, A., & Gardair, E. (2006). Le discours de la discrimination en situation de sélection professionnelle : Un exemple de persistance du biais de différenciation intergroupe. *Les Cahiers Internationaux de Psychologie Sociale*, 70(2), 21-34. <https://doi.org/10.3917/cips.070.0021>

Tilmant, B., & Hupet, M. (1990). Effets du degré de conviction de l'interlocuteur sur l'usage de phrases clivées. *L'Année psychologique*, 90(2), 213-229. <https://doi.org/10.3406/psy.1990.29396>

**Alan HASSELBERGER** is a PhD student in Social, Work and Organizational Psychology at the University of Lorraine in France. His work focuses on the categorization process (social and cognitive psychology) and the implicit form of the pro-endocategory bias against LGBTQIA+ candidate in a recruitment process, through a language-based approach.

**Marie-France AGNOLETTI** is professor of social psychology at the University of Lorraine, France. Her work focuses on social perception, social representations and social acceptability, using both qualitative and quantitative methods.

---

**Please excuse my accent: An examination of impression management strategies used by nonnative speakers**

---

LORIAN ROBERSON<sup>1</sup>, REGINA KIM<sup>2</sup>, MARCELLO RUSSO<sup>3</sup> AND PAOLA BRIGANTI<sup>4</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>Columbia University, USA; <sup>2</sup>Fairfield University, USA; <sup>3</sup>University of Bologna, Italy; <sup>4</sup>University of Naples, Italy)

Research has shown that nonnative speakers are perceived more negatively than native speakers (Gluszek & Dovidio, 2010), and that nonnative speakers are often aware of listener prejudices (Derwing, 2003; Wated & Sanchez, 2006). Nonnative speakers' awareness of accent discrimination can raise concerns that they are being categorized by native speakers and judged on the basis of stereotypes (Freynet et al., 2018; Pilote & Canuel, 2013). Most research on accent discrimination has tended to focus on native speaker prejudice and not on how nonnative speakers cope with and manage this threat (Freynet & Clement, 2019). The two studies presented here focus on this understudied area and explore the impression management strategies used by nonnative speakers when interacting with native speakers. In this study, we examine the effectiveness of impression management strategies in terms of their impact on the user's emotional (e.g., positive and negative feelings) and performance outcomes (e.g., speech fluency, accent strength). We examine if some strategies mitigate the negative effects of perceived threat, and if some strategies are more effective than others in improving outcomes for nonnative speakers. Results from both studies revealed negative effects associated with the use of defensive strategies (i.e., excuse and apology), and results from Study 2 demonstrated benefits associated with assertive strategies (i.e., self-promotion and flattery). Results also suggested that the best strategy when interacting with native speakers may not be the most effective when interacting with nonnative speakers.

Derwing, T. M. (2003). What do ESL students say about their accents? *Canadian Modern Language Review*, 59(4), 547–567. <https://doi.org/10.3138/cmlr.59.4.547>

Freynet, N., & Clément, R. (2019). Perceived accent discrimination: Psychosocial consequences and perceived legitimacy. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 38(4), 496–513. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0261927X19865775>

Freynet N., Clément R., & Sylvestre J. (2018). A qualitative/e investigation of the experience of accent stigmatization among native and nonnative French speakers in Canada. *Journal of Language and Discrimination*, 2(1), 5–31. <https://doi.org/10.1558/jld.32226>

Gluszek, A., & Dovidio, J. F. (2010). The way they speak: A social psychological perspective on the stigma of nonnative accents in communication. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 14 (2), 214–237. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1088868309359288>

Pilote, A., & Canuel, M. (2013). Construction identitaire et altérité en contexte de mobilité: Le cas d'étudiants universitaires originaires de milieux francophones minoritaires au Canada [Identity building and otherness in mobility contexts: The case of university students from minority francophone settings in Canada]. *Revue de l'Université de Moncton*, 4, 35–65.

Wated, G. & Sanchez, J. I. (2006). The role of accent as a work stressor on attitudinal and health-related work outcomes. *International Journal of Stress Management*, 13(3), 329–350. <https://doi.org/10.1037/1072-5245.13.3.329>

**Loriann Roberson:** Professor Emeritus at Teachers College, Columbia University. Her research on workplace diversity issues spans individual level phenomena such as prejudice and stereotype threat, and organizational level phenomena such as how organizations seek to manage diversity and create inclusion through policies and practices.

**Regina Kim:** Assistant Professor of Management at Dolan School of Business, Fairfield University. Her research focuses on linguistic diversity, cross-cultural management, and conflict management & negotiations. Her work has been published in journals including *Journal of Applied Behavioral Science*, the *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*, and *Journal of Research in Personality*.

**Marcello Russo:** Professor of Organizational Behavior at the University of Bologna and the Global MBA director at Bologna Business School in Italy. He is an expert on work-life balance, and the individual strategies and organizational factors can help individuals accomplish their ideal model of work-life balance.

**Paola Briganti:** Associate Professor of Organization Studies and Human Resource Management at the Department of Medical, Sport Science, and Wellbeing at University “Parthenope”, Naples, Italy. Her research focuses on stress, conflict management, individual determinants of organizational behaviors. She is member of scientific committees in national and international conferences.

---

## Detecting deception through linguistic cues: From reality monitoring to natural language processing

RICCARDO LOCONTE<sup>1</sup>, STEPHANIE MALDERA<sup>2</sup>, CHIARA BATTAGLINI<sup>3</sup>, GIUSEPPE SARTORI<sup>2</sup>, PIETRO PIETRINI<sup>1</sup>, NICOLÒ NAVARIN<sup>2</sup> & MERYLIN MONARO<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>IMT School of Advanced Studies Lucca, Italy; <sup>2</sup>University of Padova, Italy;

<sup>3</sup>University School for Advanced Studies IUSS Pavia, Italy)

---

Detecting deception in interpersonal communication is a pivotal issue in social psychology, with significant implications for court and criminal proceedings. The Undeutsch hypothesis suggests that deceptive narratives differ from truthful ones in form and content (Amado et al., 2015). However, identifying robust linguistic cues of deception is not trivial (DePaulo et al., 2003). Among the methods proposed to assess the veracity of verbal narratives, the Reality Monitoring (RM) framework stands out in the literature for its theoretical robustness (Johnson & Raye, 1981). More recently, the advent of Natural Language Processing (NLP) has provided new opportunities for automatic deception detection (Tomas et al., 2022), sometimes outperforming human accuracy (Bond & DePaulo, 2006).

This study aims at strictly comparing the performances of NLP techniques and humans in detecting deceptive narratives from linguistic and semantic cues, also investigating the elements upon which their decisions are based. 120 naïve raters and 36 forensic experts were asked to evaluate the veracity of 62 narratives (32 genuine and 30 deceptive) transcribed from video-taped interviews collected in low-stakes scenarios and designed to increase liars' cognitive load by posing unexpected questions (Monaro et al., 2022). Naïve participants provided gut-decisions, while experts evaluated each narrative through the RM criteria before making their decisions. On the same dataset, four machine algorithms were trained on both linguistic features automatically extracted through NLP techniques and on the eight RM criteria evaluated by the expert judges.

Results show that machine algorithms significantly outperform both naïve raters (accuracy=54.3%) and expert judges (accuracy=59.3%) when trained on features automatically extracted through NLP techniques – reaching an accuracy up to 77.8%, but not when trained on the RM criteria (best accuracy=57.9%). This evidence suggests that NLP algorithms, due to their ability to handle complex patterns of linguistic data, might be useful for better disentangling truthful from deceptive narratives and identifying which linguistic cues are more informative for making that decision, overcoming the traditional theoretical models.

Amado, B. G., Arce, R., & Fariña, F. (2015). Undeutsch hypothesis and Criteria Based Content Analysis: A meta-analytic review. *The European Journal of Psychology Applied to Legal Context*, 7(1), 3–12. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejpal.2014.11.002>

Bond, C. F., & DePaulo, B. M. (2006). Accuracy of Deception Judgments. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 10(3), 214–234. [https://doi.org/10.1207/s15327957pspr1003\\_2](https://doi.org/10.1207/s15327957pspr1003_2)

DePaulo, B. M., Lindsay, J. J., Malone, B. E., Muhlenbruck, L., Charlton, K., & Cooper, H.

- (2003). Cues to deception. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129(1), 74–118. <https://doi.org/10.1037//0033-2909.129.1.74>
- Johnson, M. K., & Raye, C. L. (1981). Reality monitoring. *Psychological Review*, 88(1), 67–85. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-295X.88.1.67>
- Monaro, M., Maldera, S., Scarpazza, C., Sartori, G., & Navarin, N. (2022). Detecting deception through facial expressions in a dataset of videotaped interviews: A comparison between human judges and machine learning models. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 127, 107063. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2021.107063>
- Tomas, F., Dodier, O., & Demarchi, S. (2022). Computational Measures of Deceptive Language: Prospects and Issues. *Frontiers in Communication*, 7. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fcomm.2022.792378>

**Riccardo Loconte:** PhD student at the IMT School of Advanced Studies Lucca, working in the Forensic Neuroscience and Psychiatry (FoNeP) Lab. He is interested in the application of Natural Language Processing for memory and lie detection in forensic contexts.

**Stephanie Maldera:** Psychologist, specializing in Clinical Psychology at the University of Study of Padova. She developed a Master's Degree thesis in forensic psychology about detecting deception through facial expressions. Her study and research interests include deception and artificial intelligence.

**Chiara Battaglini:** Postdoctoral Researcher at the University School for Advanced Studies IUSS in Pavia (working in the Neurolinguistics and Pragmatics Lab). Her current research interests include language comprehension and processing, electrophysiology, metaphors and language development.

**Giuseppe Sartori:** Full professor of forensic psychology with the Department of General Psychology at University of Padova. He is interested in forensic neuropsychology, malingering, deception detection, and medical decision making. He published more than 200 papers and book chapters in peer-reviewed national and international journals.

**Pietro Pietrini:** Full Professor of Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with a career in neuroscience and clinical and forensic psychiatry. Prof. Pietrini's groundbreaking research revolves around brain imaging techniques, neuropsychology, and pharmacology to study brain structure, metabolism, and functional responses in healthy individuals and patients with mental disorders.

**Nicolò Navarin:** Associate Professor in computer science with the Department of Mathematics at University of Padova. His research interests include machine learning, including kernel methods and neural networks for structured data, and applications to bioinformatics, business process mining, computer vision, and computational psychology.

**Merylin Monaro:** Tenure-track Assistant Professor in social psychology with the Department of General Psychology at University of Padova. Her research works focus on the study of deception and its social implications. She integrates the psychology knowledge with notions of Artificial Intelligence to develop intelligent lie detection machines.

---

## Stereotypes of people with physical disabilities generated by young, middle-aged, and older adults

GABRIELLE A. BYRD<sup>1</sup> AND YAN BING ZHANG<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>Purdue University, United States; <sup>2</sup>University of Kansas, United States)

---

The United States is contending with the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been referred to as a mass disabling event. Many forms of physical disability are on the rise (Achenbach et al., 2023). Therefore, people with disabilities (PWD) and people without disabilities must find ways to effectively interact and communicate with one another. One path toward improving competent interability communication is reducing disability stereotyping, thus it is imperative that we have a systematic and comprehensive understanding of disability stereotypes. This two-study project extends research on stereotypes and interability communication. In study one, 459 young, middle-aged, and older adults without disabilities participated in a trait generation task, which produced 53 frequently occurring traits of PWD – 31 positive traits and 22 negative traits. Older adults generated more *positive* traits than young and middle-aged adults, whereas young adults generated more *negative* traits than older adults, which highlights the role age plays in schematic representations of disability. Despite differences across age groups in the number and frequency of disability traits, the three trait lists were significantly correlated. In study two, 598 young, middle-aged, and older adults without disabilities reported the degree to which they considered the frequently occurring traits yielded in study one to be favorable and typical of PWD in general. Trait groupings established three shared stereotypes: lovable super-crip (smart, caring, determined survivors who overcome hardships), incompetent recluse (helpless and socially inept), and impaired victim (dependent, impaired people who are stigmatized). Including two studies and three age cohorts allows us to produce a more expansive list of traits than prior studies, provides interesting findings related to age group differences, and demonstrates both consistencies and inconsistencies with prior literature. Further discussion focuses on the stereotype literature (e.g., Stereotype Content Model) and important implications for interability communication, language, and social psychology.

Achenbach, J., Keating, D., McGinley, L., Johnson, A., & Chikwendiu, J. (2023, October 3). An epidemic of chronic illness is killing us too soon. Washington Post.  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/interactive/2023/american-life-expectancy-dropping/>

**Gabrielle A. Byrd** is an Assistant Professor at Purdue University. Her research focuses on the relationship between communication and disability, stereotypes, and relational and identity processes.

**Yan Bing Zhang** is Professor of Intergroup and Intercultural Communication at the University of Kansas. She studies the dynamic interplay between communication, relationships, social cognition, and identity in face-to-face and mediated contexts.

---

## Social perception of the poor as savages in history and today

CEYHUN SUNSAY

(Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, USA)

---

The vast majority of social psychological studies examine their subjects in today's contemporary cultural context which is subject to economic and cultural changes. In contrast the emerging field of historical psychology advocates the importance of historical contexts in affecting social cognition (Atari et al., 2023; Hutmacher et al., 2022; Muthukrishna et al., 2021). Studies on social perception may especially benefit from historical analyses in determining the extent of cultural or evolutionary factors in affecting social perception of others. For instance, contrary to an evolutionary account, which gives feelings of disgust a central role in explaining xenophobia, a textual analysis of the narratives of Europeans in the 15th and 16th centuries did not support this account. On the other hand, travel narratives of Europeans in the 19th century indicated that native Africans were viewed with disgust but not because of their unfamiliarity but rather because of their perceived inferiority (Sunsay, 2023). Historiography of the 19th century suggests that the European poor were portrayed with stereotypes similar to those used to describe colonial subjects (e.g., Cannadine, 1998). Both colonial subjects and the European poor, despite their stark racial differences, were viewed with disgust and stereotyped as savages implying that racial differences were secondary compared to perceived status differences. Given the enduring existence of status difference amongst people, it is conceivable that the poor may continue to be viewed with similar stereotypes even today. Two studies using a natural language processing (NLP) model known as word embedding analysis conducted on a 19th century and the other on a contemporary textual corpus confirmed this conjecture. Specifically, both the European of the 19th century and the poor today were associated with adjectives connoting savagery, wretchedness and misery, amongst others. Two experimental studies detected these stereotypes at both implicit and explicit levels. Collectively the results indicate the poor continue to be viewed with repugnance since the 19th century.

Atari, M., & B Henrich, J. (2023). Historical Psychology. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 32(2), 1–8.

Cannadine, D. (1998). *Class in Britain*. Yale University Press.

Hutmacher, F., & Mayrhofer, R. (2022). Psychology as a historical science? *Current Psychology*, 42(22), 18507-18514.

Muthukrishna, M., Henrich, J., & Slingerland, E.. (2021). Psychology as a historical science. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 72, 717-749.

Sunsay, C. (2023). A historical evaluation of the disease avoidance theory of xenophobia. *PLOS ONE*, 18 (12), 1-15.

**Ceyhun Sunsay:** I received my Ph.D. in Biopsychology/Animal Cognition from the University of Vermont and worked as NIH fellow in Psychopharmacology at Indiana University Bloomington. I am currently employed at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania conducting psychological studies using historical data.

## Tweet of the devil: Tracking “evil” trends on Twitter/X

CHRISTOPHER T. BURRIS<sup>1</sup> AND MARINA VREBAC<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>St. Jerome’s University [in the University of Waterloo], Canada; <sup>2</sup>University of Toronto, Canada)

---

Is “evil” an antiquated word that survives only in select religious contexts, or does its contemporary occurrence extend beyond metaphysical circles? The global reach of Twitter/X enables examination of the personal, local, or global circumstances that are most likely to provoke its use.

All occurrences of “evil” on the Twitter platform were extracted from the first three weeks of both June 2021 and December 2021. The top 100 most frequent occurrences in each span were subsequently coded using three a priori categories based on Burris (2022): (1) “evil” behaviors (typified by acts perceived as intentional, harmful, and lacking sufficient justification); (2) “evildoers” (perceived perpetrators of “evil” behavior); and (3) “evil” symbols drawn from (a) mythology/fiction/pop culture or (b) symbols proper, objects, etc. associated with (1) and (2).

Average daily occurrences of “evil” were 17,970 (June) and 30,435 (December). The daily top 100 respectively accounted for 46% and 57% of total occurrences within the two spans. Average daily codes for the June/December top 100 were: “evil” symbols (60%/72%); “evil” behaviors (21%/11%); and evildoers (9%/7%), with 8%/16% unclassifiable. Across both spans, religious/spiritual quotes and references to pop culture icons or Indian entertainment dominated the symbolic category. Many “evil” behaviors referenced the Myanmar protests or the Tigray war within both spans, with specific related “evildoers” mentioned more frequently in June versus December.

Thus, although focusing on the top 100 obviously pulls toward group-level interests and away from smaller-scale/idiosyncratic concerns, these results demonstrate that: (1) “Evil” continues to be invoked outside of specifically religious contexts; and (2) the three-category coding approach can account for most current uses.

Burris, C. T. (2022). *Evil in mind: The psychology of harming others*. Oxford University Press.

**Christopher T. Burris** is a Professor of Psychology at St. Jerome’s University (in the University of Waterloo), Canada, and is the author of *Evil in Mind: The Psychology of Harming Others* (2022, Oxford).

**Marina Vrebac** holds a Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Toronto and is currently a librarian at Blessed Sacrament School in Kitchener, Canada.

---

## Affective valence in posts on X (former Twitter) and evaluation of a politician's image

MONIKA OBRĘBSKA, BARBARA KONAT, EWELINA GAJEWSKA, NADIA DEMBSKA AND  
MARCELINA DOBROWOLSKA  
(Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland)

---

The aim of this study was to examine whether the use of affective language (hate speech or kindness speech) by politicians impacts the social evaluation of their image, as measured by the semantic differential method developed by Cwalina et al. (2000). The theoretical basis of the study is the Affect Infusion Model (Forgas, 2002). The present study was preceded by a pilot study (Dobrowolska & Obrębska, 2023). In this study, extended by new variables, Polish participants (N = 958, 53.4% women, mean age = 46) evaluated the profiles of three well-known Polish politicians from different parties: Krzysztof Bosak (right-wing), Rafał Trzaskowski (center), and Robert Biedroń (left-wing). Participants made evaluations before and after reading hateful, kind or neutral tweets about refugees from Ukraine. As a distractor we employed a short animated video from the YouTube platform. The tweets used in the study were inspired by real tweets written by politicians; however, they were fabricated by the authors for the purpose of the study. The sentiment expressed in tweets was validated with the use of tools from computational linguistics. We controlled for participants' political views and their congruence with the electoral programs of the politicians being evaluated, as well as demographic variables. The results confirmed the changes in the evaluation of the image of politicians depending on the language they used. Only in the case of neutral posts did image ratings remain unchanged. Detailed analyses also showed that: a) the participants' congruence of political views with the person being evaluated is correlated with ratings for all dimensions of the semantic differential scale, b) there are statistical differences in judgement on the semantic differential scale between women and men, although the effect sizes for these results are small ( $d \leq 0.2$ ), and c) there was a relationship between age and evaluations on several dimensions of the semantic differential.

Cwalina, W., Falkowski, A., & Kaid, L. L. (2000). Role of advertising in forming the image of politicians: Comparative analysis of Poland, France, and Germany. *Media Psychology*, 2, 119-146.

Forgas, J. P. (2002). Toward Understanding the Role of Affect in Social Thinking and Behavior. *Psychological Inquiry*, 13(1), 90-102. [https://doi.org/10.1207/S15327965PLI1301\\_03](https://doi.org/10.1207/S15327965PLI1301_03)

Dobrowolska, M. & Obrębska, M. (2023). Use of hate speech and social evaluation of a politician's image. *Psychology of Language and Communication*, 27(1), 256-277. <https://doi.org/10.58734/plc-2023-0013>

**Monika Obrębska:** Ph.D. (habil.), Assistant Professor of psychology, Department of Cognitive Psychology, Faculty of Psychology and Cognitive Science, Adam Mickiewicz University. Her research interests concentrate on the issues of language and communication, particularly considered in the context of communication barriers and language disorders. She has published numerous research papers in the field of psycholinguistics.

**Barbara Konat:** Assistant Professor at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, specializes in the intersection of emotion and argumentation. Based on her postdoctoral experience at Dundee's Centre for Argument Technology and her role at Sentimenti.pl, she now leads the ComPathos project to create a computational pathos model in rhetoric, funded by the Polish National Science Centre.

**Ewelina Gajewska:** PhD student at Warsaw University of Technology in the iTRUST project, focusing on analysis of conflict and polarisation in social media. She has a master's degree in cognitive science. Her research interests centre around computational social science combining natural language processing techniques and psychology.

**Nadia Dembska:** a fifth-year psychology student at Adam Mickiewicz University.

**Marcelina Dobrowolska:** graduate in psychology from the Adam Mickiewicz University.

---

## Intergroup contact, relational solidarity, and cognitive attitudes toward Chinese international students

YAN BING ZHANG<sup>1</sup>, GABRIELLE BYRD<sup>2</sup>, MAKIKO IMAMURA<sup>3</sup> AND RACHEAL RUBLE<sup>4</sup>  
(<sup>1</sup>University of Kansas, USA; <sup>2</sup>Purdue University, USA; <sup>3</sup>Saint Mary's College in California, USA; <sup>4</sup>Iowa State University, USA)

---

International students from China are the largest demographic group among international students in the United States for the past five years (Institute of International Education, 2023). While relocating in the United States, Chinese international students are expected to adjust not only to American cultural norms but also to localized societal expectations (e.g., higher education and campus life: Spencer-Rodgers, 2001). Additionally, recent research shows that COVID-19 has intensified biases and even increased violence toward people of Asian, especially Chinese descent. The current project extends intergroup contact research in exploring the link between contact and cognitive attitudes by including a multidimensional measure of cognitive attitudes as indicated by endorsement of five major stereotypes specific to the American Chinese context. Specifically, from theoretical perspective of intergroup contact, our study examined the direct associations and indirect associations, through relational solidarity, between American college students' ( $N = 375$ ) communication quality and frequency with their most frequently contacted Chinese international student and cognitive attitudes toward Chinese international students. Results revealed that communication quality positively predicted endorsement of Chinese international students as being nice and kind and negatively predicted Chinese international students as being annoying and rude, shy and socially awkward, and culturally maladjusted. However, communication frequency negatively predicted endorsement of Chinese international students as being nice and kind and positively predicted participants' endorsement of Chinese international students as being rude and annoying. Additionally, results indicated that (1) both communication frequency and communication quality positively predicted relational solidarity with the most frequently contacted Chinese international student and (2) relational solidarity developed from communication with the Chinese contact generalized to positive and negative perceptions of international students from China in general. Overall, our study reveals the complexities of the relationship between communications with outgroup members and intergroup attitudes reflected in cultural stereotyping.

**Yan Bing Zhang** is a Professor of Intergroup and Intercultural Communication in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Kansas. She studies the intergroup processes between communication, relationships, social cognition of age and culture, and identity in face-to-face and mediated contexts.

**Gabrielle Byrd** is an Assistant Professor in the Brian Lamb School of Communication at Purdue University. Her research focuses primarily on social identity, communication, and relationships.

**Makiko Imamura** is a Professor in the Communication Department and Vice Provost for Institutional and Educational Effectiveness at Saint Mary's College of California.

**Racheal Ruble** is an associate teaching professor in the Department of Psychology at Iowa State University. Her research interests include intercultural and intergroup communication, cultural stereotypes, and intergroup relations.

---

## **Attitudes toward the appropriateness of languages in different spheres of life: The case of Lithuania**

LORETA VILKIENĖ  
(Vilnius University, Lithuania)

---

The linguistic attitudes of each country's population are linked to the tendencies to learn, use, and evaluate languages. Attitudinal studies reveal the beliefs and preferences of a linguistic community and show the status and value of different languages. Between 2020 and 2021, Vilnius University carried out the project "Language Attitudes and Linguistic Behaviour of Lithuanian Population". This paper is based on the responses of the respondents of that project to one question of the representative survey: which languages are appropriate for business, school (as the main language of instruction), higher education, services, and various institutions when communicating with officials. The survey was carried out among 1003 respondents aged 18-74.

This paper aims to answer the question of to what extent the different languages spoken in Lithuania - Lithuanian, English, Russian, Polish, and others - are perceived by the Lithuanian population to be appropriate in the aforementioned spheres. The paper also examines how respondents' attitudes are related to their mother tongue, gender, age, place of residence, and education. Descriptive and inferential statistics (chi-squared test) are used for data analysis. The results show that only business is the sphere, where the English language can be preferred to Lithuanian, and a relatively high percentage of respondents also think that the Russian language is appropriate in this field. The English language can also compete with Lithuanian in higher education. In all other spheres, a much higher percentage of respondents prefer Lithuanian. A relatively small proportion of respondents consider Russian and Polish to be appropriate in the spheres of life in question. A very small percentage of respondents think that languages other than those mentioned above may be appropriate in different spheres of life. This paper also discusses, how attitudes toward the appropriateness of languages depend on specific sociolinguistic characteristics of respondents.

**Loreta Vilkienė** – Professor at the Department of Lithuanian Studies, Vilnius University. Research interests – applied linguistics, sociolinguistics, more specifically: the relationship between language and identity, linguistic attitudes, language acquisition, teaching and testing Lithuanian as a foreign language, etc.

---

## Foreign accents, gender and perceptions of competence in COVID-19 messaging in the UK: A ‘Johnny Foreigner’ effect?

PAUL POLOKA AND MIHA CONSTANTINESCU  
(University of East London, United Kingdom)

---

Accented non-native speakers (e.g. students, teachers, workers and professionals in various forms of employment) often face accent-based discrimination, being rated as less competent and less trustworthy than their native counterparts (Chakraborty, 2017; Fuertes et al., 2012; Gluszek & Dovidio, 2010). However, UK-based evidence for this phenomenon is thus far limited. This UK-based study investigated the effects of accent (British, Polish, Indian) and gender on perceptions of competence regarding COVID-19 public messaging. We hypothesised that (i) British and (ii) masculine voices would be perceived as more competent than (iii) Polish and Indian and (iv) feminine voices, respectively. Adult participants (N = 348) listened to voice recordings providing COVID-19 information and then rated both the information and the speaker on competence. The study used the verbal-guise technique as the method for presenting voice stimuli (i.e. use of multiple speakers/actors, instead of computer generated voice recordings that may sound artificial). It employed both a content-based instrument (Schoel et al., 2013) and a speaker-based instrument (Fuse et al., 2018) to measure perceptions of competence. The results support the first hypothesis,  $F(1.94, 672.76) = 31.53$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = 0.083$ , but not the second hypothesis. In brief, we found that British accent was perceived as more competent than both Polish and Indian accents. We also found that British female speakers were perceived as more competent than British male speakers and all other speakers in this study. This raises interesting questions about current theories of gender stereotypes. We discuss the role of biased perceptions and competing stereotypes in healthcare and public policy, as well as wider implications for education and public health. To our knowledge, this is the first study to look at the effects of foreign accents on Covid communications.

- Chakraborty, R. (2017). A Short note on Accent–bias, Social identity and ethnocentrism. *Advances in Language and Literary Studies*, 8, 57.
- Fuertes, J. N., Gottdiener, W. H., Martin, H., Gilbert, T. C., & Giles, H. (2012). A meta-analysis of the effects of speakers’ accents on interpersonal evaluations. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 42(1), 120–133.
- Fuse, A., Navichkova, Y., & Alloggio, K. (2018). Perception of intelligibility and qualities of non-native accented speakers. *Journal of Communication Disorders*, 71, 37–51.
- Gluszek, A., & Dovidio, J. F. (2010). The way they speak: A social psychological perspective on the stigma of nonnative accents in communication. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 14(2), 214–237.
- Schoel, C., Roessel, J., Eck, J., Janssen, J., Petrovic, B., Rothe, A., Rudert, S. C., & Stahlberg, D. (2013). ‘Attitudes Towards Languages’ (AToL) Scale: A global instrument. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 32(1), 21–45.

**Paul Poloka** is an affiliated lecturer and project supervisor at UEL. He has a Bachelor degree in Psychology and an MSc in Occupational and Organisational Psychology from UEL.

**Miha Constantinescu** is a Senior Lecturer at UEL. She has an MPhil and a PhD in Developmental Psychology from Cambridge University. Miha conducts research on bilingualism and foreign accentedness, seeking to investigate the ways in which existing biases and stereotypes concerning foreignness can impact an individual’s perceived competence and trustworthiness.

## Words beyond their sum

CATERINA SUITNER<sup>1</sup> AND MAGDALENA FORMANOWICZ<sup>2</sup>  
(<sup>1</sup>University of Padova, Italy; <sup>2</sup> SWPS University, Poland)

Discussant: MARIA LAURA BETTINSOLI  
(University of Padova, Italy)

---

Seminal linguistic approaches have addressed the relevance of language for socio-cognitive processes by focusing on specific words, primarily by counting words that signal a given process. This bag of words approach allowed for automatic coding of huge amount of data, offering pragmatic strength to the investigation of the interplay between language and psychology. Yet, a count of word cannot capture the very nature of language. Indeed, the power of language is not limited to having a long (yet finite) list of words to indicate objects, concepts and events, but it spikes in the infinite possibility to create combinations of such words, which allows for infinite semantic meaning. Moving a step forward, we here emphasize the possibility and opportunity to capture some of the nuances created by word combination, while still staying in the pragmatic realm of automatic coding. In 5 presentations, we will apply this perspective to the study of several social phenomena, including information diffusion in social media discourses, calls to collective action, political campaigns, the analysis of online discussion about abortion and linguistic featuring of mood. Across the four presentations we will present and apply two novel tools of automatized analysis of textual data taking into account the use of words in interaction.

**Caterina Suitner** is Associate Professor at the University of Padova. Her research focuses on the relationship between social cognition and language, with particular attention to the role of para-semantic linguistic features and their role in attitude formation (e.g., trust in vaccines) and belief in fake news, social inequality, and gender issues.

**Magdalena Formanowicz** is assistant professor at SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw. Her research focuses on social cognition (discrimination and intergroup relations) and language, relying on a multimethod approach that incorporates experiments and large textual data. She is also interested in dehumanization and agency.

**Maria Laura Bettinsoli** is an interdepartmental researcher at University of Padova. Her research interests space from language and (social) cognition to social perception and categorization. Her latest research focuses on psychology of gender and sexual identities with particular interest on intergroup stereotyping through the lens of intersectionality.

---

# Linguistic factors influencing information diffusion in social networks: a systematic review

LEJLA DŽANKO<sup>1,2</sup>, JAN NIKADON<sup>2</sup>, CATERINA SUITNER<sup>1</sup>, TOMASO ERSEGHE<sup>1</sup> AND  
MAGDALENA FORMANOWICZ<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>University of Padova, Italy; <sup>2</sup>SWPS University, Poland)

---

Online social networks have become ubiquitous in modern-day life. Initially a platform that offered us an opportunity to catch up with old friends or meet new ones, they have become a powerful tool for spreading the message, used by activists to advocate for change (Suitner et al., 2022; Xiong et al., 2019), protest leaders to invite people to take part in the movement (Kavanaugh et al., 2011; Alvarez et al., 2015), companies to advertise their products (Knoll, 2015), or politicians to reach potential voters (Fujiwara et al., 2022). They are also exploited for more sinister reasons such as interfering with election outcomes (Rathi, 2019) and spreading disinformation and conspiracy theories (Del Vicario et al., 2015). Whether we want to help propagate ideas to see a positive change in the world or to stop false narratives from catching on, it is crucial to study the mechanisms by which information spreads - the diffusion of information - in online social networks. This review focused on identifying linguistic factors that influence the spread of information above and beyond other possible contributors to the spread. We found that the linguistic features that have been found to drive diffusion were topic-specific. Across different contexts, features such as, for example, emotional tone (positive versus negative) had different effect on the spread of messages - hindering the proliferation of the message in some cases, while fueling it in others. The results of the analysis point out that there is no one-size-fit all solution. Additionally, we were interested in the interplay of homophily and influence but the role of homophily was considered in only a few of the selected works. We also noted best practices when it comes to selecting the tools for collecting and preprocessing the data, analyzing the linguistic features and conducting statistical analysis.

**Lejla Džanko** is PhD candidate at the SWPS University, she works on the intersection of network science and social psychology. Her main interest is studying the diffusion of information online and the implications language and social network structure have on diffusion.

**Jan Nikadon** is a PhD candidate at the SWPS University. He is interested in understanding the emergence, unfolding and communication of agency across systems in biology, artificial life, psychology of individuals as well as in group relations. He is especially interested in the role of linguistic agency in the unfolding of collective action

**Caterina Suitner** is Associate Professor at the University of Padova. Her research focuses on the relationship between social cognition and language, with particular attention to the role of para-semantic linguistic features and their role in attitude formation (e.g., trust in vaccines) and belief in fake news, social inequality, and gender issues.

**Tomaso Erseghe** is an Associate Professor at the Dept of Information Engineering, University of Padova, Italy. His current research focuses on applied network science and machine learning in collaboration with psychologists. He is also interested in distributed optimization over networks, and information theory.

**Magdalena Formanowicz** is assistant professor at SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw. Her research focuses on social cognition (discrimination and intergroup relations) and language, relying on a multimethod approach that incorporates experiments and large textual data. She is also interested in dehumanization and agency.

# PLMP: A Method for projecting linguistic markers of socio-psychological processes on target words

---

TOMASO ERSEGHE<sup>1</sup>, LEJLA DŽANKO<sup>1,2</sup>, LEONARDO BADIA<sup>1</sup>, JAN NIKADON<sup>2</sup>,  
MAGDALENA FORMANOWICZ<sup>2</sup>, AND CATERINA SUITNER<sup>1</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>University of Padova, Italy; <sup>2</sup>SWPS University, Poland)

---

In a social discourse, socio-psychological featuring can be mapped at different conceptual levels, each of which captures distinct aspects. These, taken together, identify the constituent characteristics of the discourse itself. Topic detection is one of these levels commonly adopted in the literature. But we can envision partitioning the semantics at their foundation, that is, up to the words, and inquiring into the link between the socio-psychological features and those words which, in the scenario under investigation, carry a specific and relevant meaning. To do so, we developed a method called PageRank-like marker projection (PLMP). Exploiting the network analysis of textual data, the method uses the PageRank rationale to project socio-psychological markers from a social discourse level (tweets) to its semantic elements (words), by wisely exploiting the active interconnections at a semantic network level. Its application to feminist (#MeToo) and environmentalist (#FridaysForFuture) online calls to collective actions, as well as to #covid19 pandemic and a number of other datasets, show that the proposed method has the ability to reveal (and measure) the nuances of social discourse, that would otherwise have been lost in a standard approach.

**Tomaso Erseghe** is an Associate Professor at the Dept of Information Engineering, University of Padova, Italy. His current research focuses on applied network science and machine learning in collaboration with psychologists. He is also interested in distributed optimization over networks, and information theory.

**Lejla Džanko** is PhD candidate at the SWPS University, she works on the intersection of network science and social psychology. Her main interest is studying the diffusion of information online and the implications language and social network structure have on diffusion.

**Leonardo Badia** received the Ph.D. in information engineering from the University of Ferrara, Italy, in 2004. Since 2011, he has been with the University of Padua, Italy, where he is currently Associate Professor. His research interests include mathematical analysis of wireless networks, cross-layer optimization, and applications of game theory to wireless communications.

**Jan Nikadon** is a PhD candidate at the SWPS University. He is interested in understanding the emergence, unfolding and communication of agency across systems in biology, artificial life, psychology of individuals as well as in group relations. He is especially interested in the role of linguistic agency in the unfolding of collective action.

**Magdalena Formanowicz** is assistant professor at SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw. Her research focuses on social cognition (discrimination and intergroup relations) and language, relying on a multimethod approach that incorporates experiments and large textual data. She is also interested in dehumanization and agency.

**Caterina Suitner** is Associate Professor at the University of Padova. Her research focuses on the relationship between social cognition and language, with particular attention to the role of para-semantic linguistic features and their role in attitude formation (e.g., trust in vaccines) and belief in fake news, social inequality, and gender issues.

---

## What about male partners? Analysis of online discourses in the pro-life and pro-choice Twitter communities

---

SILVIA FILIPPI<sup>1</sup>, LEJLA DŽANKO<sup>2</sup>, TOMASO ERSEGHE<sup>1</sup> AND CATERINA SUITNER<sup>1</sup>  
(<sup>1</sup>University of Padova, Italy; <sup>2</sup>SWPS University, Poland)

---

While abortion remains a hot topic, little is known about how male partners enter the discussion as targets, but that they are more likely excluded from the decision in case of abuse. The goal of the paper is to analyze the discussion about the role men have in voluntary abortion decision-making by observing the language used to discuss this topic on Twitter. We look at the pro-choice and the pro-life groups separately and compare their discourse. To this end, we collected 24208 Tweets published in 2019 that contain words referring to the male partner (e.g., men, father, dad) and either pro-choice or pro-life hashtags. In neither dataset did the discussion about the role of male partners achieve significant centrality. Tweet metadata contained topics assigned by Twitter. The subset of tweets that were annotated with the “Fatherhood” topic, as well as tweets mentioning the word “men” were coded with LIWC (Linguistic Enquiry and Word Count) to measure the level of negative emotions, dehumanization, morality, religiosity, and family-related words in the text. Within-group comparison shows higher levels of discourse connected to religion, family, and sanctity in the pro-life dataset, while the prochoice dataset featured stronger dehumanization, especially in the tweets that talked about the topic of fatherhood. Using novel, page-rank based approach PLMP (Erseghe et al., 2023) we calculated the value of the aforementioned linguistic markers for male-related keywords as well as their female counterparts in the context of our tweets to show who is the target of the discourse. Results show the limited involvement of male partners in the discussion about voluntary abortion decisions, calling for future investigations about the consequences of such involvement. They also demonstrate that both groups consider fathers only if their actions are in line with the group’s prevalent stance on the topic of abortion.

**Silvia Filippi** is post-doctoral researcher at the University of Padova. She studies the effect of inequality in organizations on employee well-being. She also investigates which are the underpinnings of support for wealth redistribution. Specifically, she focuses on cognitive, ideological and contextual factors. Moreover, she explores the role of communication in shaping preferences for redistribution and tax compliance.

**Lejla Dzanko** is PhD candidate at the SWPS University, she works on the intersection of network science and social psychology. Her main interest is studying the diffusion of information online and the implications language and social network structure have on diffusion.

**Tomaso Erseghe** is an Associate Professor at the Dept of Information Engineering, University of Padova, Italy. His current research focuses on applied network science and machine learning in collaboration with psychologists. He is also interested in distributed optimization over networks, and information theory

**Caterina Suitner** is Associate Professor at the University of Padova. Her research focuses on the relationship between social cognition and language, with particular attention to the role of para-semantic linguistic features and their role in attitude formation (e.g., trust in vaccines) and belief in fake news, social inequality, and gender issues.

---

## **BERTAgent: A novel tool for quantifying linguistic agency: An application in the analysis of mobilising election candidate support on Twitter during the 2020 U.S. congressional elections**

JAN NIKADON<sup>1</sup>, LEJLA DZANKO<sup>1</sup>, TOMASO ERSEGHE<sup>2</sup>, CATERINA SUITNER<sup>2</sup>, MICHAŁ OLECH<sup>3</sup>, PAWEŁ JUREK<sup>4</sup>, MAGDALENA FORMANOWICZ<sup>1</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>SWPS University, Poland; <sup>2</sup>University of Padova, Italy; <sup>3</sup>Medical University of Gdańsk, Poland; <sup>4</sup>University of Gdańsk, Poland)

Agency, pertaining to goal-orientation and achievement, is a fundamental aspect of human cognition and behavior (Abele & Wojciszke, 2014; Bandura, 2001). Accordingly, detecting and quantifying linguistic representations of agency is critical in the analysis of human actions, interactions, and social dynamics. Existing tools for agency quantification in textual data rely on word-counting methods. These methods often overlook the semantic context, leading to inaccuracies, especially in cases of polysemy and negation. Here, we present BERTAgent, a novel tool to quantify semantic agency in text. It addresses these challenges using a deep learning approach to natural language processing. We also demonstrate how BERTAgent can be applied to analyze the linguistic behavior of election candidates. We expected that politicians would adjust their linguistic agency based on the election cycle's phases and current events. This is because, in order to build and maintain support, politicians in representative democracies need to project an image of effectiveness and capacity to act (agency). To achieve that, they must effectively communicate and transfer their agency to trigger public support. Accordingly, studies indicate that candidates' perceived agency, including proactivity and need for achievement, influences leadership evaluations, which subsequently predict voting behavior (Pillai et al., 2003). Using BERTAgent, we quantified the linguistic agency in tweets (N=495,252) posted by candidates (N=1283) during the 180 days before and after the 2020 U.S. Congressional Elections. We examined the linguistic behavior of politicians with respect to major expected (e.g., election) and unexpected (e.g., January 6th Capitol Attack) political events. In line with our expectations, regression analysis revealed that election candidates use more linguistic agency prior to expected events and produce bursts of agentic messages after significant unexpected events. This research marks an important step in understanding how language shapes support for candidates in representative democracies.

**Jan Nikadon** is a PhD candidate at the SWPS University. He is interested in understanding the emergence, unfolding and communication of agency across systems in biology, artificial life, psychology of individuals as well as in group relations. He is especially interested in the role of linguistic agency in the unfolding of collective action.

**Lejla Dzanko** is PhD candidate at the SWPS University, she works on the intersection of network science and social psychology. Her main interest is studying the diffusion of information online and the implications language and social network structure have on diffusion.

**Tomaso Erseghe** is an Associate Professor at the Dept of Information Engineering, University of Padova, Italy. His current research focuses on applied network science and machine learning in collaboration with psychologists. He is also interested in distributed optimization over networks, and information theory

**Caterina Suitner** is Associate Professor at the University of Padova. Her research focuses on the relationship between social cognition and language, with particular attention to the role of para-semantic linguistic features and their role in attitude formation (e.g., trust in vaccines) and belief in fake news, social inequality, and gender issues.

**Michał Olech** is an Assistant Professor at Medical University of Gdańsk. He is a mathematician and an expert in statistical methods and psychometrics. He successfully utilizes his scientific interests in differential equations and numerical methods in psychometrics.

**Paweł Jurek** is an Associate Professor and Director of the Institute of Psychology at the University of Gdańsk. His main research interests include psychometrics and research methods in psychology. He is the author and co-author of original measurement methods, as well as the Polish adaptations of international tools.

**Magdalena Formanowicz** is assistant professor at SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw. Her research focuses on social cognition (discrimination and intergroup relations) and language, relying on a multimethod approach that incorporates experiments and large textual data. She is also interested in dehumanization and agency.

---

## Agency, mood, and grammar. A triangular relation

CATERINA SUITNER<sup>1</sup>, MAGDALENA FORMANOWICZ<sup>2</sup>, JAN NIKADON<sup>2</sup> AND MARTA WITKOWSKA<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>University of Padova, Italy; <sup>2</sup> SWPS University, Poland)

---

Compared to happiness, sad mood is typically envisaged as impeding activity. On the grammatical side, nouns are associated with lower activity, whereas verbs prompt actions. Therefore, action propensity can be linked to both mood and grammar. In two studies, we explored these relations. In Study 1, we utilized a large dataset of sentences referring to a happy moment ( $N = 27,775$ ), classified as either representing authors' agency or its lack using the BertAgen method (Nikadon et al, 2023). The more a writer uses verbs, the more likely they are perceived as being in control of the described happy moment. This relation is partially mediated by the level of linguistic agency expressed in the description. In a complementary fashion, Study 2 investigates the natural language use in a data set of textual productions related to the emotional burdens of COVID-19 pandemics ( $N = 2,500$ ) and its emotional burdens. The use of verbs is negatively linked to the frequency of negative emotion words, and this link is mediated by the extent the language conveys agency.

**Caterina Suitner** is Associate Professor at the University of Padova. Her research focuses on the relationship between social cognition and language, with particular attention to the role of para-semantic linguistic features and their role in attitude formation (e.g., trust in vaccines) and belief in fake news, social inequality, and gender issues.

**Magdalena Formanowicz** is assistant professor at SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw. Her research focuses on social cognition (discrimination and intergroup relations) and language, relying on a multimethod approach that incorporates experiments and large textual data. She is also interested in dehumanization and agency.

**Jan Nikadon** is a PhD candidate at the SWPS University. He is interested in understanding the emergence, unfolding and communication of agency across systems in biology, artificial life, psychology of individuals as well as in group relations. He is especially interested in the role of linguistic agency in the unfolding of collective action.

**Marta Witkowska** is Assistant Professor at SWPS University. She studies the relationships between language and well-being, language and behavior, and intergroup conflict and reconciliation in the context of deprivation of basic psychological needs.

## Communication accommodation theory: A theory in an evolving IT world

ANTONIS GARDIKIOTIS<sup>1</sup> AND HOWARD GILES<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece; <sup>2</sup>University of California, Santa Barbara, USA and University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia)

Communication accommodation theory (CAT) is a socio-psychological theory seeking to explain and predict when, how, and why individuals engage in interactional adjustments (as in for example, talk, appearance and demeanor above) as well as recipients' inferences, attributions, and evaluations of, and responses to, them (e.g., Giles et al., 1991a; Giles, 2016a; Soliz et al., 2022). Originally framed as an interpersonal theory of speech and later of nonverbal alignments (see Stamp et al., 2015), it now – by drawing on social identity theory (Tajfel, 1978; Turner & Giles, 1981), addresses processes of an intergroup nature (see Dragojevic & Giles, 2014). CAT assumes that conversations are dynamic adaptive exchanges of language and communicative behaviors where participants adjust their own speech and communicative characteristics to those being messaged. A compelling feature of the theory's history is that it has been studied across cultural contexts, languages, social groups, and applied settings (e.g., Watson and Soliz, 2019) as well as across disciplines (see Meyerhoff, 1998; Elhami, 2020) and within and between non-human species (e.g., Luef et al., 2020; Ruch et al., 2018). Scholars have described its development – and its theoretical Principles in terms of Stages (e.g., Zhang & Pitts, 2019). The most recent of which (Giles et al. 2023) – Stage 7 – is interpreted as focusing on how humans accommodate their messages through (computer-mediated communication; CMC) and with (human-machine communication; HMC) technology. The aim of this article is threefold in the light of Gilet al. (2023): (a) very briefly overview work emerging from the six Stages of (b) updating Stage 7 research on accommodation with and through new technology, and (c) laying down an agenda for future research in this latter Stage.

- Dragojevic, M., & Giles, H. (2014). Language and interpersonal communication: Their intergroup dynamics. In C. R. Berger (Ed.), *Handbook of interpersonal communication* (pp. 29-51). De Gruyter Mouton.
- Elhami, A. (2020). Communication accommodation theory: A brief review of the literature. *Journal of Advances in Education and Philosophy*, 4(5), 192-200. <https://doi.org/10.36348/jaep.2020.v04i05.002>
- Giles, H. (Ed.). (2023, September). Communication Accommodation Theory at 50: Recent developments. Special Issue of *Language Sciences*, 99.
- Giles, H., Edwards, A. L., & Walther, J. B. Communication Accommodation Theory: Past accomplishments, current trends, and future prospects. *Language Sciences*, 99, 2023, 101571. Advance online: <https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1hUV31OE9HWH0e>
- Giles, H., Coupland, N., & Coupland, J (1991). Accommodation theory: Communication, context, and consequence. In H. Giles, J. Coupland, N. & Coupland (Eds.), *Contexts of accommodation: Developments in applied sociolinguistics* (pp. 1-68). Cambridge University Press.
- Luef, E. M., Ter Maat, A., Jäger, M., & Pika, S. (2020). The 'culture of two': Communication accommodation in ravens' (*Corvus corax*) nonvocal signaling. *Journal of Language Evolution*, 5(1), 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jole/lzz008>
- Meyerhoff, M. (1998). Accommodating your data: The use and misuse of accommodation theory in sociolinguistics. *Language and Communication*, 18, 205–25. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0271-5309\(98\)00006-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0271-5309(98)00006-8)
- Ruch, H., Zürcher, Y., & Burkhart, J. M. (2018). The function and mechanism of vocal accommodation in humans and other primates. *Biological Reviews*, 93(2), 996-1013. <https://doi.org/10.1111/brev.12382>
- Soliz, J., Giles, H., Gasiorek, J. (2022). Communication accommodation theory: Converging toward an understanding of communication adaptation in interpersonal relationships. In D. O. Braithwaite & P. Schrodt (Eds.), *Engaging theories in interpersonal communication: Multiple perspectives* (Vol. 3, pp. 130-142). Routledge.
- Stamp, R., Schembri, A., Evans, B. G., & Cormier, K. (2015). Regional sign language varieties in contact: Investigating patterns of accommodation. *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, 21(1), 70–82. <https://doi.org/10.1093/DEAFED/ENV043>
- Tajfel, H. (Ed.). (1978). *Differentiation between social groups: Studies in the social psychology of intergroup relations*. Academic Press.
- Turner, J. C., & Giles, H. (Eds.). (1981). *Intergroup behavior*. Blackwell.
- Watson, B. M., Soliz, J. (2019). Communication accommodation theory in institutional settings: Opportunities for applied research. In J. Harwood, J. Gasiorek, H. Pierson, J. F. Nussbaum, & C. Gallois (Eds.) *Language, communication, and intergroup relations: A celebration of the scholarship of Howard Giles* (pp. 242-264). Routledge.
- Zhang, Y.B., Pitts, M. J. (2019). Interpersonal accommodation. In: Harwood, J., Gasiorek, J., Pierson, H., Nussbaum, J. F., & Gallois, C. (Eds.). *Language, communication, and intergroup Relations: A celebration of the scholarship of Howard Giles* (pp. 192-216). Routledge.

**Antonis Gardikiotis** is a Professor of Social Psychology and the Media in the Department of Journalism and Mass Media Studies at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

**Howard Giles** is a Distinguished Research Professor of Communication at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Honorary Professor in the School of Psychology at The University of Queensland, Australia.

**Ironic talk:**  
**Emotions and intentions related to verbal irony using and understanding**

KATARZYNA BRANOWSKA  
(University of Warsaw, Poland)

---

According to Gibbs's (2000) research, irony appears in around 8% of statements uttered during everyday talks between friends. This number also applies to conversations conducted in computer-mediated settings (Hancock, 2004). Depending on the type of irony used, it may fulfill various functions: it softens criticism, enables the building of strong bonds between people, reduces the distance between conversation participants, or quite the opposite – it may emphasize differences, express frustration with the situation or the interlocutor (Aguert et al., 2016; Bryant, Fox Tree, 2002; Gucman, 2016).

Therefore, it constitutes an important part of interpersonal conversations and plays an important role in social communication in general. However, it is still not known exactly why people use irony and what are their intentions. On the other hand, what emotions do recipients of ironic statements feel? What intentions are attributed to the person who uses irony? To find answers to these questions, the study with Polish-speaking adults (N = 179; 121 women, 55 men, 3 non-binary) was conducted. The authors' tool based on 12 short vignettes and open-ended questions was used to measure the use and understanding of irony, emotions, and intentions related to ironic conversation. Quantitative and qualitative results of the study showing the irony role in everyday conversations will be presented.

- Aguert, M., Laval, V., Gauducheau, N., Atifi, H., & Marcoccia, M. (2016). Producing irony in adolescence: A comparison between face-to-face and computer-mediated communication. *Psychology of Language and Communication*, 20(3), 199-218.
- Bryant, G. A., & Fox Tree, J. E. (2002). Recognizing verbal irony in spontaneous speech. *Metaphor and symbol*, 17(2), 99-119.
- Gibbs, R. W. (2000). Irony in talk among friends. *Metaphor and symbol*, 15(1-2), 5-27.
- Gucman, M. (2016). The role of individual differences and situational factors in perception of verbal irony. *Psychology of Language and Communication*, 20(3), 255-277.
- Hancock, J. T. (2004). Verbal irony use in face-to-face and computer-mediated conversations. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 23(4), 447-463.

**Katarzyna Branowska:** PhD student at University of Warsaw, Faculty of Psychology. Interested in irony and humor research, focusing mostly on individual differences and non-literal language use. Currently working in Language & Humour Lab at The Maria Grzegorzewska University.

## Using communication simulations with multilingual medical students in Hong Kong: Findings of a linguistic and discursive analysis

MARGO TURNBULL<sup>1</sup>, CAROL YU<sup>1</sup> AND WAI-TAT WONG<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China; <sup>2</sup>The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China

Simulation-based training has become increasingly popular as a cost-effective and non-intrusive tool in communication skill programmes for practitioners and students. It is a valuable resource when there are limited opportunities for ‘real life’ experience or risks of inadvertently harming patients or service users if they are included in training activities. The simulation itself may be presented in a variety of formats such as written scenarios, role plays or video vignettes. Artificial intelligence and virtual reality tools are increasingly being used to generate materials for these learning experiences. Simulations are connected with pedagogical tools for teaching through discussion, making judgements or encouraging reflection (Eskelinen & Caswell, 2006; Evans & Taubert, 2019). Although the need for effective communication training in medical and nursing curricula is widely recognised, limited research has focused on how the related pedagogy is designed and enacted in multilingual contexts. Hong Kong is a particularly unique educational context as English is the Medium of Instruction for medical students, yet clinical practice is often conducted in up to two varieties of spoken Chinese (Cantonese and Putonghua/Mandarin). Code-switching (or translanguaging) between two or three languages is a feature of local verbal interaction (Wong et al., 2021). This presentation will introduce the findings of a unique communication study that involved the detailed analysis of 20 video recorded communication simulation sessions conducted with final year medical students in Hong Kong. Both English and Cantonese Chinese were used in the training sessions. Linguistic and discursive aspects of communication were analysed using a framework based on Communication Accommodation Theory (Giles, 2016). Findings suggest that ‘teaching’ these complex communication skills in multilingual and translanguaging contexts requires greater theoretical attention to optimise learning related to both linguistic and discursive elements of interaction. Linguistic and cognitive processing demands increased with linguistic complexity and challenged the use of accommodative strategies. The findings of this research can inform the use of simulation training across contexts.

Eskelinen, L., & Caswell, D. (2006). Comparison of social work practice in teams using a video vignette technique in a multi-method design. *Qualitative Social Work*, 5(4), 489-503.

Evans, L., & Taubert, M. (2019). State of the science: the doll is dead: simulation in palliative care education. *BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care*, 9(2), 117-119.

Giles, H. (2016). *Communication Accommodation Theory*. John Wiley & Sons.

Wong, K. H., Yang, L. C., Woo, K. W., Wong, O. F., Kwong, W. Y., Tse, C. F., Lam, S. K., Ma, H. M., Lit, C. H., Ho, H. F. & Shih, Y. N. (2021). Attitudes and educational needs of emergency doctors providing palliative and end-of-life care in Hong Kong: a cross-sectional analysis based on a self-report study. *BMC Palliative Care*, 20(1), 1-10.

**Margo Turnbull** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English and Communication at PolyU. She specialises in health and professional communication. She is particularly interested in how language and communication are used across written and spoken modalities in multilingual medical contexts.

**Carol Yu** is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of English and Communication at PolyU. Her research interests include health and professional communication and communication accommodation. In particular, how interlocutors’ motives, attitudes and/or identities influence their language use and communication strategies to achieve transactional and/or relational communication goals.

**Wai-Tat Wong** is a specialist in internal medicine and critical care medicine in the Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, and the Centre for Bioethics at CUHK. He is responsible for undergraduate teaching in acute medicine, anaesthesia, communication skills, professionalism and medical ethics. His interests include medical education, clinical ethics, end-of-life care in ICU, mechanical ventilation and infectious diseases.

## Identifying linguistic indicators of negative and positive framing of indigenous peoples in the published health literature: A scoping review

REBECCA LEE<sup>1</sup>, JANICE LINTON<sup>2</sup>, ELLIE SIDEN<sup>1</sup>, MEDINA WARDMAN<sup>1</sup>, MARIA CHERBA<sup>3</sup>, KATHERINE A. COLLINS<sup>4</sup>,  
AMY SHAWANDA<sup>5</sup>, ASHLEY CORNET-BENOIT<sup>6</sup> AND JESSICA CHAN<sup>1,7</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>University of British Columbia, <sup>2</sup>University of Manitoba, <sup>3</sup>University of Ottawa, <sup>4</sup>University of Saskatchewan, <sup>5</sup>McGill University, <sup>6</sup>University of Calgary, <sup>7</sup>BC Cancer, Canada)

**Aim:** Published health research involving Indigenous Peoples is largely deficit-based. Consuming this research can lead to biased thoughts and drive existing stereotypes and discrimination against Indigenous Peoples. Deficit- and strengths-based language involving Indigenous People exists in academic writing across many disciplines. To inform the development of interventions that can help counter deficit-based language, we aimed to conduct a review to understand 1) what is currently known about language use and discourse in the academic literature relating to Indigenous Peoples, and 2) the linguistic mechanisms of deficit- and strengths-based framing. **Methods:** We conducted a scoping review and searched online bibliographic databases and Indigenous research journals. We included peer-reviewed articles from all disciplines in English and French, published between 2000-2022, that discussed language use and discourse in the context of framing, bias, and/or stereotyping of Indigenous Peoples in Canada, the United States, Australia, and Aotearoa New Zealand. Conference abstracts, books, and grey literature were excluded. Of 1143 identified articles, 63 were included for analysis and synthesis. We extracted data on words and phrases that were used to refer to Indigenous Peoples, and specifically, those that positively or negatively framed Indigenous Peoples. We also extracted recommendations to reduce negative framing, and conducted a thematic analysis to describe what has been written in articles about the impact that language can have on generating stereotypes of Indigenous Peoples. **Results:** Many articles emphasized the critical role of language in imposing harm on, and perpetuating biases against Indigenous Peoples, but few offered linguistic recommendations to guide writing practices. Insights on the importance of language in the context of word choice and linguistic framing in perpetuating bias, the lack of guidelines to prevent negative framing in academic literature, and potential implications for future research will be presented.

**Rebecca Lee**, MPH, a Chinese settler from Treaty 7 territory (Calgary), focuses her research on understanding the enduring effects of colonial legacies on institutional structures and their implications for public health. Committed to truth and reconciliation, she stands with Indigenous communities, contributing to crucial conversations on Indigenous rights and histories.

**Janice Linton**, (she/her; Scottish, English, settler descendent), MLS, is an academic health sciences librarian grateful to live on the original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Ininewuk, Anisininewuk, Dakota Oyate, and Denesuline and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis bringing several years' experience supporting wellness and equity for Indigenous Peoples.

**Ellie Siden** is a first-year Internal Medicine Resident at the University of British Columbia, having earned her medical degree there. With a background in literature and musicology, she brings a unique perspective to her practice. She is passionate about medical communication and exploring the intersection of medicine and the humanities.

**Medina Wardman**, a Key First Nations member from Saskatchewan, is a first-year medical student at the University of British Columbia. She is passionate to combat Indigenous-specific racism in healthcare. Her background in sociology and health equips her to enact vital change for Indigenous communities' well-being.

**Maria Cherba**, PhD, of settler ancestry, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Ottawa's Department of Communication. With a focus on patient-provider communication and patient-centered care, she began collaborating on Indigenous health projects in 2017 while in Iqaluit. Currently, her research aids healthcare for Inuit families in Ottawa.

**Katherine A. Collins**, PhD, of Métis/Irish ancestry, is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Saskatchewan. Her research focuses on the intersections between language, culture, and identity as applied to sociocultural issues, including bias and health inequity, which highlights the significance of cultural identity for thriving communities.

Dr. **Amy Shawanda**, Odawa kwe from Wiikwemkoong, Manitoulin Island, is an Assistant Professor at McGill University, with a PhD in Indigenous Studies. A dedicated mother, auntie, and lifelong learner, she integrates Anishinaabe cultural ways into Western health care through strengths-based research, emphasizing Indigenous knowledge, education, and health methodologies.

**Ashley Cornect-Benoit**, of Indigenous-Settler ancestry, with roots in Mi'kmaq, French, and Irish heritage from Port au Port, Newfoundland (Ktaqmkuk), serves as Manager of Research and Knowledge Mobilization at Shkaabe Makwa, CAMH. Pursuing a PhD in Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary, she specializes in Population and Public Health.

**Dr. Chan** is a settler (Chinese heritage) radiation oncologist at BC Cancer Vancouver, and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of British Columbia. Her research focuses on assessing and addressing cancer system inequities, particularly within high income countries and in partnership with Indigenous Peoples.

## Gender and hormonal differences in empathy and social orientation as reflected in language usage

PAUL COMPENSIS AND OLIVER C. SCHULTHEISS

(University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany)

Language is closely intertwined with social cognition – evident in parallel developmental trajectories, reciprocal influence in processing as well as correlations of impairments in some neuropsychiatric disorders. Despite these links, there has been only limited research on how specific social-cognitive processes are reflected in linguistic patterns and whether inter-individual differences underlie both domains. Empathy is an ideal test case in this regard because empathy correlates with a number of linguistic markers (Yaden et al., 2023) and affects the sensitivity to violations of linguistic organizing principles (Kann et al., 2023). Inter-individual variation in both language and empathy is often attributed to gender and hormonal differences (Christov-Moore et al., 2014). For instance, higher basal testosterone correlates with lower empathy and with lower social orientation reflected in language (Compensis, 2023) and testosterone administration even reduces empathy (van Honk et al., 2011) and inhibits social orientation (Pennebaker et al., 2004). We present the results from a study that explored whether gender effects on empathy and language are related – and potentially mediated by testosterone. 170 participants provided salivary samples for hormonal assessment and wrote picture stories that were then coded for the degree to which participants consider different perspectives and attribute emotions to assess cognitive and affective empathy – using Feffer’s *decentering scores* (Feffer et al., 2008) and Teglasi’s *empathy scoring* (Teglasi et al., 2008). Socially oriented language style was assessed with *LIWC* (Pennebaker et al., 2001). Main and interaction effects are investigated using linear mixed effects models. Our data provide evidence for gender effects in our implicit measures of both cognitive and affective empathy as well as social orientation. For testosterone, the picture is more complex with an intricate interaction of gender, pre-natal and recent basal testosterone levels. This research emphasizes the need for additional research on hormonal and gender effects on language and social cognition.

- Christov-Moore, L., Simpson, E. A., Coudé, G., Grigaityte, K., Iacoboni, M., & Ferrari, P. F. (2014). Empathy: gender effects in brain and behavior. *Neuroscience and biobehavioral reviews*, 46 Pt 4(Pt 4), 604–627.
- Compensis, P. (2023, October). Shying away from the social? Basal and prenatal testosterone effects on social orientation and perspective taking abilities reflected in language usage. [Poster presentation]. 42. Motivationspsychologische Kolloquium, Jena. <https://osf.io/b2jum>
- Feffer, M., Leeper, M., Dobbs, L., Jenkins, S. R., & Perez, L. E. (2008). Scoring manual for Feffer's interpersonal decentering. In S. R. Jenkins (Ed.), *A handbook of clinical scoring systems for thematic apperceptive techniques* (pp. 157–180). Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers.
- Kann, T., Berman, S., Cohen, M. S., Goldknopf, E., Gülser, M., Erlikhman, G., Trinh, K., Yokoyama, O. T., & Zaidel, E. (2023). Linguistic Empathy: Behavioral measures, neurophysiological correlates, and correlation with Psychological Empathy. *Neuropsychologia*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuropsychologia.2023.108650>
- Pennebaker, J. W., Francis, M. E., & Booth, R. J. (2001). Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC): LIWC2001. Erlbaum.
- Pennebaker, J. W., Groom, C. J., Loew, D., & Dabbs, J. M. (2004). Testosterone as a social inhibitor: Two case studies of the effect of testosterone treatment on language. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 113(1), 172–175.
- Teglasi, H., Locraft, C., & Felgenhauer, K. (2008). Scoring Manual for Empathy. In *A Handbook of Clinical Scoring Systems for Thematic Apperceptive Techniques* (pp. 623–648). Routledge.
- van Honk, J., Schutter, D. J., Bos, P. A., Kruijt, A.-W., Lentjes, E. G., & Baron-Cohen, S. (2011). Testosterone administration impairs cognitive empathy in women depending on second-to-fourth digit ratio. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 108(8), 3448–3452.
- Yaden, D. B., Giorgi, S., Jordan, M., Buffone, A., Eichstaedt, J. C., Schwartz, H. A., Ungar, L., & Bloom, P. (2023). Characterizing empathy and compassion using computational linguistic analysis. *Emotion*.

**Paul Compensis** is a linguist and psychologist with a keen interest in social cognition and social neuroscience. He is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Human Motivation & Affective Neuroscience (HuMAN) lab in Erlangen.

**Oliver C. Schultheiss** is a psychologist and behavioural endocrinologist who has conducted extensive research on implicit motives and their association with hormonal markers. He is full professor of experimental psychology, motivation, and affective neuroscience, and the head of the HuMAN Lab at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg.

---

**Extending the message style construct in advice communication research:**

**Effects of hedges and frame markers on responses to text-based online advice**

MIAN JIA<sup>1</sup> AND MATTHEW S. MCGLONE<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>City University of Hong Kong, China; <sup>2</sup>The University of Texas at Austin, USA)

---

How to communicate high-quality online advice is a question receiving increasing attention in research on language and communication. Studies on the message style of advice have focused on linguistic politeness strategies such as conventional politeness markers and face-redressive expressions (Feng & MacGeorge, 2010; MacGeorge et al., 2016). According to the theory of interpersonal metadiscourse (Hyland, 2005; Hyland et al., 2022), message style features not only include interactional markers such as hedges (e.g., *probably*, *could*, *might*), but also interactive markers such as frame markers (e.g., *first*, *second*, *my point is*). The communicative effects of using these linguistic devices, however, have not been experimentally tested in online advice-giving. Drawing on Hyland's (2005) theory of interpersonal metadiscourse, this study hypothesized that using frame markers and hedges in text-based online advice would improve advisees' evaluations of the advice and their implementation intentions.

To test these hypotheses, this study employed a 2 (hedges: present vs. absent) \* 2 (frame markers: present vs. absent) \* 2 (scenario: pay raise, passion for work) between-subjects factorial design using an online sample of 731 participants from Prolific. The results generally supported the above hypotheses in that using frame markers significantly improved participants' evaluation of advice quality and their intentions to take the advice. These main effects of using frame markers are mediated by advice clarity. Using hedges also significantly elevated participants' evaluation of advice quality. No interaction effects of the two markers were found. Taken together, this study argues that the message style construct in advice research (e.g., MacGeorge et al., 2016) needs to move beyond linguistic politeness and extend to various metadiscourse markers. Moreover, the present work responds to the call for more experimental studies on metadiscourse in social interactions (Hyland, 2017; Hyland et al., 2022).

Feng, B., & MacGeorge, E. L. (2010). The influences of message and source factors on advice outcomes. *Communication Research*, 37(4), 553–575.

Hyland, K. (2005). *Metadiscourse: Exploring interaction in writing*. Continuum.

Hyland, K. (2017). Metadiscourse: What is it and where is it going? *Journal of Pragmatics*, 113, 16–29.

Hyland, K., Wang, W., & Jiang, K. F. (2022). Metadiscourse across languages and genres: An overview. *Lingua*, 265, 103205.

MacGeorge, E. L., Guntzviller, L. M., Hanasono, L. K., & Feng, B. (2016). Testing advice response theory in interactions with friends. *Communication Research*, 43(2), 211–231.

**Mian (James) Jia** is an assistant professor in the Department of English at the City University of Hong Kong. His research explores how linguistic markers of (im)politeness and agency shape people's perceptions, intentions, and behaviors in various interpersonal, intercultural, health, and mediated contexts.

**Matthew McGlone** is Professor of Communication Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. He studies social influence, persuasion, and deception, focusing on language's key role in these processes. His current research projects explore strategic word choice in messages promoting wellness, patience, disaster preparedness, and prosocial behavior.

## **Interactions of language styles with politicians' sexual orientation and race on likeliness to vote for a candidate**

LEA LISA LORENZ<sup>1</sup>, MARTIN NAUNOV<sup>2</sup>, ELENA BALL<sup>1</sup> AND MELANIE CAROLINE STEFFENS<sup>1</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>University of Kaiserslautern-Landau, Germany; <sup>2</sup>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA)

---

Ensuring that governmental representation reflects societal diversity is crucial, yet women, especially Black and lesbian women, remain markedly underrepresented. The present research aims to investigate the effects of intersecting identities and different language styles on candidates' political prospects. The assertiveness of one's campaign language, or lack thereof, is an effective tool to communicate the type of politics voters can expect from a candidate.

In an online repeated-measure experiment (N = 656), we used photos and campaign messages to manipulate the race and sexual orientation, respectively, of hypothetical political candidates in the U.S. Candidates' self-presentation style was manipulated through their reliance on communal or assertive campaign language. This experiment allows us to test a series of pre-registered hypotheses that pit against one another the partially contradictory predictions of the Lack of Fit Model, Ethnic Prominence Theory, Double Jeopardy Theory, and Stereotype Content Model.

Multilevel modeling reveals American voters favor care-oriented rhetoric from Black candidates in all offices, while assertive language is additionally preferred for traditionally masculine offices. However, White heterosexual women are still penalized for highlighting qualifications and assertiveness. Additionally, language styles have nuanced interactions with candidates' photos and individualizing information, influencing perceived assertiveness. Notably, Republicans show a significant bias against lesbian candidates, regardless of race, affecting their voting intentions.

This research underscores the complex role of language in shaping perceptions of political candidates, with varying implications based on candidates' intersecting identities, and highlights disparities that would otherwise stay hidden. We discuss which language styles are beneficial or detrimental to female candidates' electoral prospects, contingent upon their racial and sexual identity.

**Lea Lisa Lorenz**, ORCID-ID 0009-0004-4677-6063, is a PhD-student in Social Psychology at the University of Kaiserslautern-Landau, researching possible prevention and intervention approaches to masculinity threat. Her other research interests include intersectional discrimination in economic and political contexts, with a focus on gender, race, and sexual orientation.

**Martin Naunov**, ORCID-ID 0000-0001-7195-4600, is a PhD-student in Political Science. Beginning in autumn of 2024, he will be a College Fellow and then Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Northwestern University. He studies stereotyping, discrimination, and intergroup relations, methodologically focusing on vocal experimental stimuli and audio data.

**Elena Ball**, ORCID-ID 0000-0002-5390-624X, is a PhD-student in Social Psychology studying racism in the German job-context from an intersectional perspective. Having a second degree in philosophy, politics, economics, and practical experience in counselling, she is interested in questions on racism in the European context in the health system and job-market.

**Melanie Caroline Steffens**, ORCID-ID 0000-0002-7915-3629, is a full professor of Social Psychology at the University of Kaiserslautern-Landau. Her research interests include attitudes towards and stereotypes of social groups, social categorization, and impression formation, with a focus on gender, sexual orientation, and diversity, including job-related discrimination.

---

## **Language as pure potential in Taiwan: Case studies of six professional trajectories**

MARK FIFER SEILHAMER

(National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

---

The ‘language as pure potential’ ideology views language as a tool that will unlock speakers’ potential, allowing them to achieve their goals. Through the unquestioning acceptance of this ideology as a commonsensical notion, neoliberal subjects feel compelled to constantly upgrade their language (typically English) skills as part of the continuous self-improvement project necessary for success (or even survival) amid the precarious lack of stability that characterizes today’s neoliberal workplaces. This idealized view of language as a neutral key that will open doors for unproblematic communication across cultural borders obscures structural inequalities and other language ideologies (e.g., social preferences for particular accents) that, in reality, serve to constrain individuals’ ability to realize the ‘language as pure potential’ ideal. In 2009, I conducted in-depth semi-structured interviews with six female Taiwanese research participants (my former students) – interviews in which they provided me with recollections of their original motivations for majoring in English, as well as predictions of their personal and professional lives in ten years’ time. Over the course of the subsequent ten years, I conducted periodic interviews with these research participants, allowing me to address the question of how their early aspirations and visions of the future compared and contrasted with the realities they ended up experiencing. In this talk, I will present the trajectories of these six participants, which represent a variety of aspirations, experiences, and outcomes – but for those who subscribed most vehemently to the ‘language as pure potential’ ideology, their belief in this ideology was found to take a beating when they realized that the playing field was, in fact, quite uneven. Competitors often had structural advantages (such as the means to study overseas) and interlocutors did not always regard their words (however fluent) as legitimate.

**Mark Fifer Seilhamer** is a lecturer in the English Language and Literature academic group at National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. His research interests are diverse, but all are related in one way or another to language ideologies and language & identity.

## Using social psychology methods to study attitudes to foreign languages in higher education in the United States

TALIA BUGEL<sup>1</sup> AND MARA BARBOSA<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>Purdue University – Fort Wayne, United States; <sup>2</sup>Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, United States)

Language attitudes are the speakers' evaluative responses to different languages and language varieties. Languages mark and identify speakers as members of groups; thus, they activate attitudes towards group members, and many studies show that speakers are evaluated on a series of traits based on their linguistic behavior (Lambert et al. 1960; Barbosa, 2020; Suárez-Büdenbender, 2020). Following the development of the matched-guise technique by Lambert et al. (1960) to investigate attitudes toward French and English, researchers have used the technique to study attitudes toward accented speech (pioneered by Anisfeld, Bogo & Lambert, 1962). Research has shown that non-native accented speech affects speakers' experiences in education (Williams, Whitehead and Miller, 1972), work (Hopper and Williams, 1973; Hopper, 1977), and social life as well. At a time when the U.S. aims to create a welcoming environment for a diverse student population in higher education, it is important to know how the newcomers' language will be perceived and received. College students' attitudes towards one native and five different non-native accented samples of English (Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese and Spanish) were collected with a matched-guise test, on measures of status and solidarity, among 198 participants attending a university in South Texas. Data show the Arabic, Chinese, and Spanish-accented English speakers rated significantly lower than the German, Japanese, and American English-accented speaker in most of the status and solidarity continua. Given that language attitudes are learned in the home (MacGregor-Mendoza, 2015a, 2015b), in the school (Cremona and Bates, 1977; Dekker, Duarte and Loerts, 2021) and can change at different stages of life, we compare and contrast our findings with those of studies conducted in different U.S. locations and abroad, in search of strategies that will allow professionals in general and educators in particular to contribute to achieve a more equitable environment, with social justice for all.

Anisfeld, M., Bogo, N., & Lambert, W. E. (1962). Evaluational reactions to accented English speech. *The Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, 65(4), 223–231.

Barbosa, M. (2020) Spanish-speaking Immigrants in Indiana: An Exploration of Attitudes towards Spanish. In: T. Bugel & C. Montes-Alcalá (Eds.). *New Approaches to Language Attitudes in the Hispanic and Lusophone World* (pp. 231-251). John Benjamins.

Cremona, C. and Bates, E. (1977) The Development of Attitudes Toward Dialect in Italian Children. *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research* 6(3):223-232.

Dekker, S.V., Duarte, J., and Loerts, H. 2021. 'Who really speaks like that?' Children's implicit and explicit attitudes towards multilingual speakers of Dutch. *International Journal of Multilingualism* 18(4):551-569.

Hopper, R. and Williams, F. (1973) Speech characteristics and employability. *Speech Monographs*, 40, 296–302.

Hopper, R. (1977) Language attitudes in the job interview. *Communication Monographs*, 44, 346–51.

Lambert, W. E., Hodgson, R. C., Gardner, R. C., & Fillenbaum, S. (1960). Evaluational reactions to spoken languages. *The Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, 60(1), 44–51.

MacGregor, P. (2015a) *Son importantes los dos*: Language use and attitudes among wives of Mexican *profesionistas* on the U.S.-Mexico border. In: Potowski, Kim and Talia Bugel (Eds.). *Sociolinguistic Change Across the Spanish-Speaking World: Case Studies in Honor of Anna María Escobar* (pp. 147-186). Peter Lang.

MacGregor, P. (2015b) *La palabra enseña pero el ejemplo arrastra*: *Profesionista* immigrants' views of Spanish and English. *Spanish in Context* 12(3):327-348.

Suárez Büdenbender, E. M. (2020). Perceptual Attitudes towards Spanish in the Panhandle of West Virginia. In: T. Bugel & C. Montes-Alcalá (Eds.). *New Approaches to Language Attitudes in the Hispanic and Lusophone World* (pp. 231-251). John Benjamins.

Williams, F., Whitehead, J. L., Miller, L. (1972). Relations Between Language Attitudes and Teacher Expectancy. *American Educational Research Journal*, 9(2), 263-277.

**Talia Bugel** is a translator (French, English, Portuguese) and professor at Purdue University Fort Wayne (Indiana, United States). She studies language attitudes (Spanish and Portuguese in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, national languages of Senegal) and their interaction with education, language policy, educational policy, and language ideology.

**Mara Barbosa** is an associate professor of Spanish at Texas A&M Corpus Christi. Her research interests lie broadly in language attitudes and ideologies, and critical pedagogy. She studies the language attitudes of different groups of speakers and language learners. She also investigates how language attitudes may influence pedagogical practices.

## **Framing of stigma communication by laypeople in Hong Kong and Australia: Pragmatics and morality**

STEFANO OCCHIPINTI<sup>1</sup>, LIZ JONES<sup>2</sup> AND BLAIR YING JIN<sup>1</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, China, <sup>2</sup>Monash University, Malaysia)

---

Health stigma is a widely understood phenomenon that impacts both the wellbeing of recipients of health care and the trajectories of their illness journeys. As stigma is a societal issue that results in largely negative consequences for the individuals who are members of stigmatised groups, solutions and understanding must also be located at a societal level. Although mental health has received much research coverage, it is equally necessary to address *general health stigma* in a time when primary care has risen sharply in prominence, as stigmatising processes and beliefs could have a strongly negative impact on the uptake and likely success of primary care efforts. Problematically, theorising around general health stigma is less well-developed in Asian cultures than is that around mental health stigma and this may ultimately impede the development of practical, local efforts to address stigma and its consequences in a multicultural and multilingual society such as Hong Kong. This talk draws on social and cultural psychologies and sociolinguistics to present a qualitative examination of stigma communication by laypeople from Australia and Hong Kong. Key comparisons involve the hesitancy and discomfort of Australian respondents in contrast to the Hong Kongers, but also the loci of moral judgements across cultures. Results suggest that: a) stigmas in Hong Kong have clearly defined loci (e.g., contagious conditions, mental health, and morally salient conditions); and b) that *interpretations* of stigma and stigma *processes* are sharply differentiated between Hong Kong and Western societies. In particular, the focus of morality in the identification of stigma targets and the way in which interpretations are shaped is discussed. Connections are drawn between stigma communication and classical psychological theories, where there is evidence of both consonance and dissonance with the observed stigma communication.

**Stefano Occhipinti** researches health and communication in sociocultural contexts, focusing on how people perceive and talk about health conditions and those who live with them, especially in relation to stigmas and people with cancers. Some key areas include masculinity; chronic illness; adjustment after robotic prostatectomy; morality and stigma; and naturalness beliefs.

**Liz Jones** is Head of Psychology at Monash University Malaysia. Her research focuses on: intergroup communication in health and organisational contexts; culture, health communication and stigma; and improving health service delivery to people from marginalised groups. She is a Fellow and Past President of the IALSP.

**Blair Ying Jin** is a Research Assistant Professor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. She is interested in: health communication, discourse analysis, and social media discourse. She has published in journals such as *Applied Linguistics*, *Discourse Studies*, *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, *Journal of Pragmatics*.

## **From English to “Englishes”: a process perspective on enhancing the linguistic responsiveness of culturally tailored cancer prevention interventions**

JANICE KRIEGER<sup>1</sup>, KEVIN TANG<sup>2</sup>, ALEXIS DAVIS<sup>3</sup>, JOSHUA MARTIN<sup>3</sup>, ERIC COOKS<sup>4</sup>,  
MELISSA VILARO<sup>3</sup> AND DANYELL WILSON<sup>5</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>Mayo Clinic, United States; <sup>2</sup>Heinrich Heine University Dusseldorf, Germany; <sup>3</sup>University of Florida, United States; <sup>4</sup>Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, United States; <sup>5</sup>Bethune-Cookman University, United States)

---

Addressing cancer health inequities, particularly related to screening, is a key public health goal. There is widespread agreement that these efforts must be developed in partnership with the communities affected to ensure they are culturally grounded, meaning that the intervention honors and reflects salient social identities within a community. While there is agreement on the need for culturally grounded interventions, there is tremendous diversity in the methods used to achieve inclusive outcomes. Furthermore, publications typically focus heavily on intervention outcomes, with little discussion of how research teams address key challenges in the adaptation process. As a result, health education interventions do not typically reflect linguistic diversity in a population. However, there are several reasons to question the appropriateness of using standardized forms of language for delivering health education. First, the way language is used and spoken varies by region and cultural group. Second, these variations indicate cultural group membership. Third, group memberships serve as cues for status and credibility based on individual position as an ingroup or outgroup member. Fourth, the ability to use language effectively positively influences health outcomes. To address the need for enhanced understanding of cultural adaptation in cancer prevention interventions, we describe the process of adapting a communication-based colorectal cancer screening intervention for speakers of African American English (AAE). The project's main goal was to develop an evidence-based colorectal cancer prevention intervention delivered by a virtual healthcare provider (VHCP) that would be perceived as culturally appropriate and authentic. To achieve this goal, the research team utilized community engagement principles to foster partnership and collaboration with diverse stakeholders. This manuscript describes challenges encountered while navigating perceptual biases associated with AAE, and how those challenges were resolved. We hope this article serves as an impetus for wider conversation on the importance of language in developing culturally-grounded, behavioral interventions.

**Janice Krieger** is Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement at the Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center in Jacksonville Florida and Professor of Translational Health Science at the Mayo Clinic.

**Kevin Tang**, PhD: University Professor in English Linguistics with specialisations in Phonetics/Phonology/Morphology at the Department of English Language and Linguistics, Institute of English and American Studies, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf.

**Alexis Davis** is a PhD student in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Florida.

**Joshua Martin** is an Instructional Designer II at the University of Florida's Center for Online Innovation and Production.

**Eric Cooks** is Senior Program Director at the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (USA).

**Melissa Vilaro** is Assistant Professor of Health and Wellness in the Department of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences at the University of Florida.

**Danyell Wilson** is Associate Professor in the Department of Natural Sciences at Bethune-Cookman University.

## Navigating multilingual landscapes: linguistic identity and language attitudes of students

MARILIZE PRETORIUS

(University of Antwerp, Belgium; University of the Free State, South Africa)

---

English as a lingua franca (ELF) has been conceptualised as a language used for communication largely between non-native speakers of English rather than as a “language for identification” (House, 2003). Nevertheless, English is often perceived as a threat to local languages and identities. Rather than vilify it, we should make informed language education decisions (House, 2014). This paper examines how students of English in Antwerp, Belgium reflexively conceptualise English *vis-à-vis* other languages in their multilingual repertoires.

The research questions are:

- What is the prominent constellation of languages in students’ repertoires?
- What are students’ attitudes towards these languages, particularly the relative importance of each?

The language portraits of 154 students of English literature and linguistics at the University of Antwerp in Belgium are analysed using a corpus-based approach (Peters & Coetzee-Van Rooy, 2020). The analysis focuses on participants’ placement of the languages on the portrait, the colour assigned to each language, and explanations for placement and colour.

A preliminary analysis of the data reveals that Dutch and English are the most prominent languages. French, German, Spanish and a number of others are represented but less common. Dutch, participants’ L1, is a particularly important language and the language of identity. While pervasive in everyday communication, there is also some ambivalence in students’ attitudes towards Dutch. In contrast, English is important and appealing, and is often associated with inner-circle countries. It is not the language of identity, but is becoming increasingly influential, especially through the influence of the media. While attitudes towards other languages vary, they are less important than English and Dutch.

The results will be discussed in light of other research on language attitudes in Belgium (e.g. Xu & Van de Poel, 2011) and implications for language teaching will be highlighted, especially in terms of conceptualising accommodative competence (Pretorius, 2022).

House, J. (2003). English as a lingua franca: A threat to multilingualism? *Journal of Sociolinguistics*, 7(4), 556-578.

House, J. (2014). English as a global lingua franca: A threat to multilingual communication and translation? *Language Teaching*, 47(3), 363-376.

Peters, A., & Coetzee-Van Rooy, S. (2020). Exploring the interplay of language and body in South African youth: A portrait-corpus study. *Cognitive Linguistics*, 31(4), 579-608.

Pretorius, M. (2022). On knowing what you do (not) know: Implications for training nurses to be competent accommodators. *Communication & Medicine*, 19(1), 10-25.

Xu, J., & Van de Poel, K. (2011). English as a Lingua Franca in Flanders: A study of university students’ attitudes. *English Text Construction*, 4(2), 257-278.

Marilize Pretorius is a lecturer of linguistics at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. She focuses on language attitudes and linguistic identity, specifically in terms of the use of English as a lingua franca in multilingual contexts and conceptualising accommodative competence in the context of language learning.

---

**Applying dynamic dyadic systems to explore features of relationship-centered care with Spanish-speaking Latinx and English-speaking non-Latinx patients**

MARIE HAVERFIELD<sup>1</sup>, RACHYL PINES<sup>2</sup>, YUWEI LI<sup>3</sup> AND DARIA TITOVA<sup>2,4</sup>  
(<sup>1</sup>San José State University, USA; <sup>2</sup>Stanford Medicine, USA; <sup>3</sup>The Pennsylvania State University, USA; <sup>4</sup>Health4TheWorld, Carmel, USA)

---

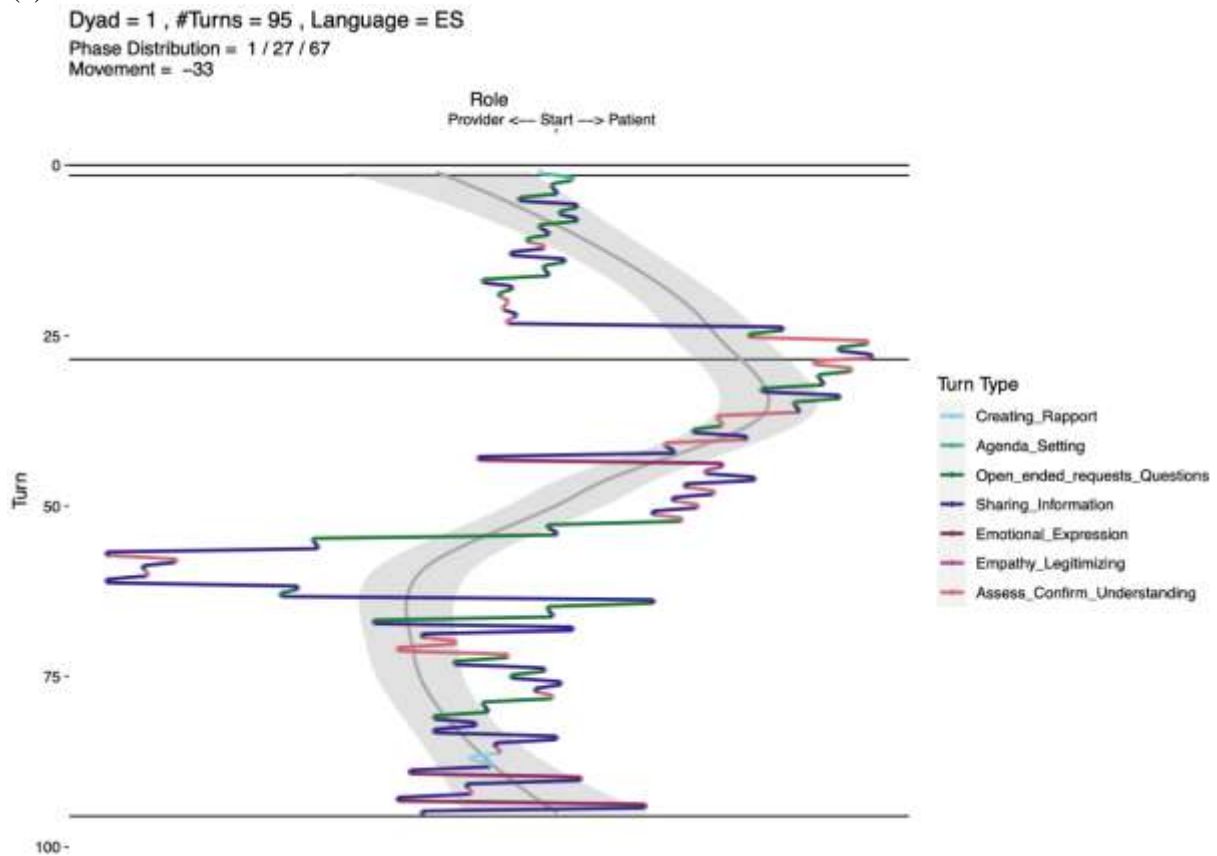
Studies have explored and built on the philosophy of relationship centered care (RCC) which positions the patient-provider exchange as central (Altamirano et al., 2022). However, due to limitations in analytical approach it remains unclear how the relational exchange develops throughout the clinical visit and what specific features of the interaction are most beneficial to the delivery of care. Dynamic dyadic systems (DDS; Solomon et al. 2021, 2023) overcome these limitations to reveal the interdependencies and evolving patterns in turn-taking sequences within dyads. This study applies DDS analyses to English and Spanish-speaking patient-provider interactions.

We analyzed transcripts from 13 primary care clinic visits—five visits were conducted with Latinx patients in Spanish and the remaining eight visits were conducted in English with non-Latinx patients. Three trained coders independently applied codes based on previous RCC work by Chou and Cooley (2017) to each speaking turn in the conversation, resulting in a total of N=2,394 units of analysis. This paper showcases two DDS approaches to visualize and analyze conversation data. A dyadic time series plot examined the trajectory of clinical encounters and contributions made by patients and providers (Figure 1), and sequence analysis identified distinct turn patterns—or conversational motifs, among Spanish-speaking versus English-speaking dyads (Figure 2).

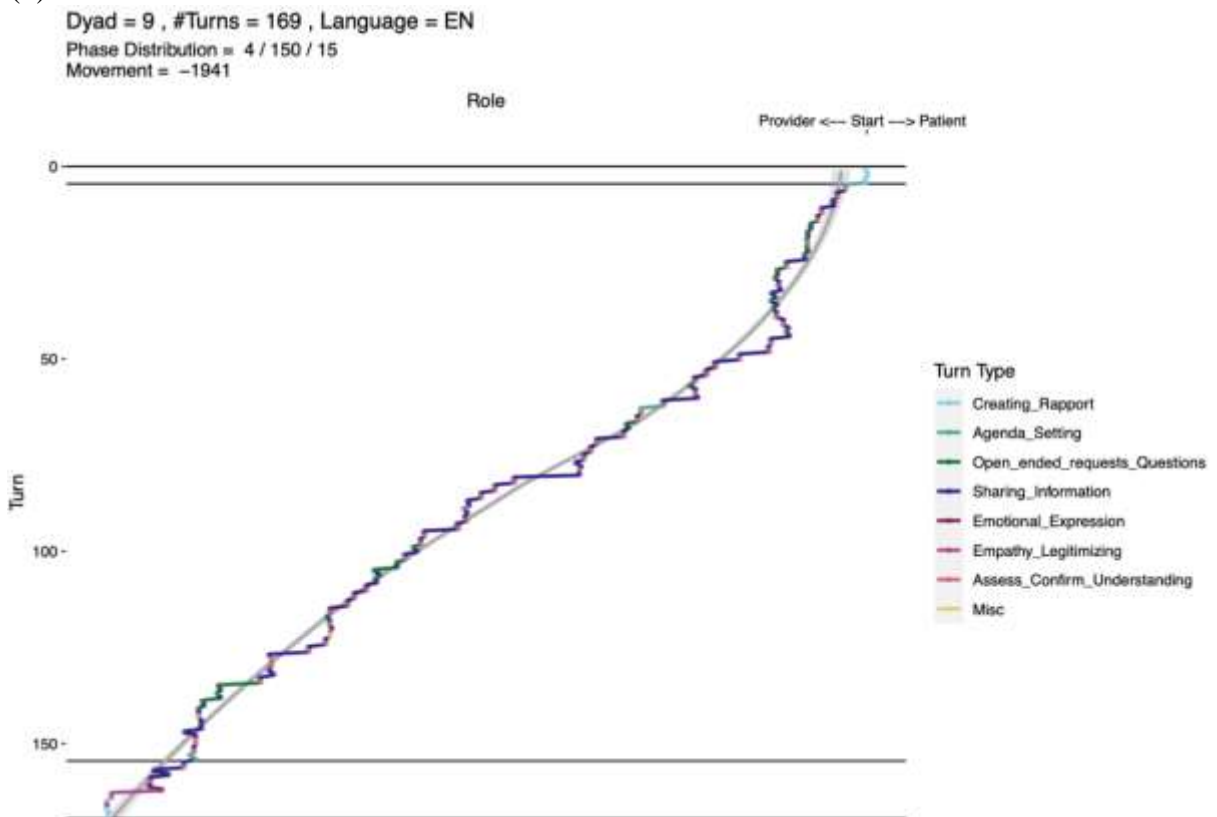
Results from conversational motifs revealed four multi-turn patterns in conversational behaviors: patient-focused probing, disclosive exchange, instructive exchange, and rapport building. The distribution of motifs differed between visits with Latinx and non-Latinx patients such that with Latinx patients, providers largely engaged in patient-focused probing dialogue, and more relational features of communication (rapport building, instructive exchange, and disclosive exchange) were underrepresented. With non-Latinx patients, providers engaged in more instructive exchange. By applying DDS approaches to examine patient-provider interactions, findings present new avenues for establishing a testable model that operationalizes RCC, and introduces opportunities for signaling discrepancies in the delivery of care with potential health equity implications.

Figure 1. Dyadic Time Series Plots – Dyads 1 & 9.

(a)

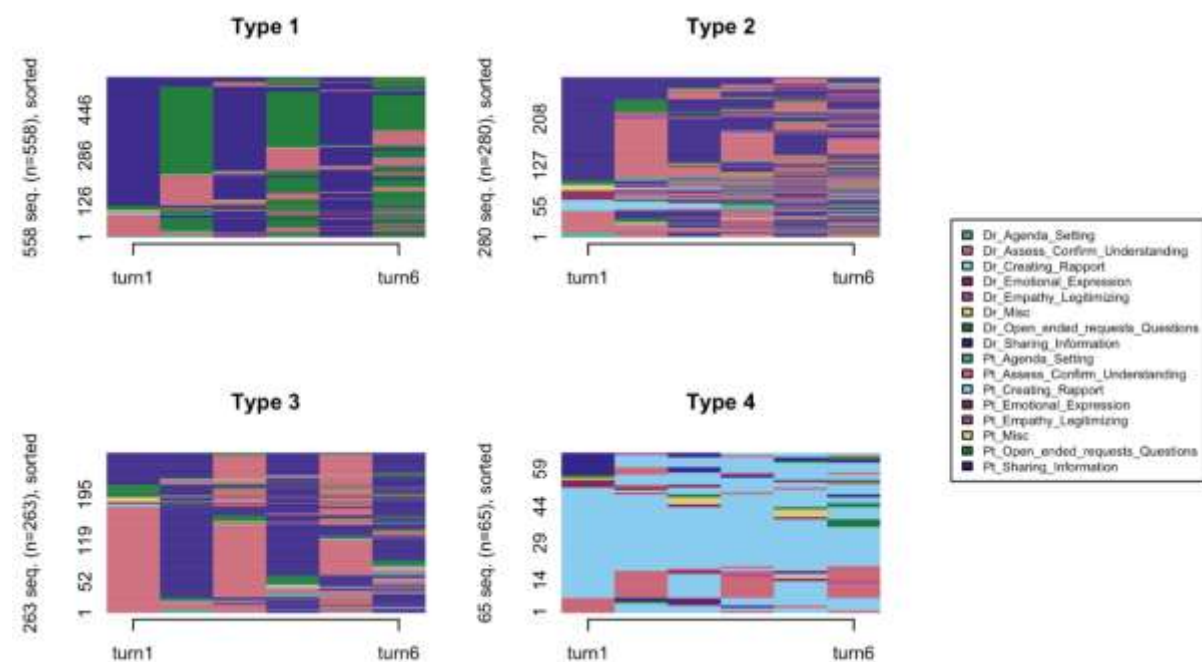


(b)



Note. In each time series plot, the progression of conversation is visualized as downward movement. Beginning at turn 1, contributions by the provider and the patient, indexed by the number of spoken words in a turn, are represented as leftward and rightward movements, respectively; the dots are positioned at the end of a turn, represented as a line segment. The colors of the dots and line segments represent the speaking turn types. The gray curve represents a smoothed trajectory of the conversation. The horizontal lines divide the conversation into three phases: Connect, Co-Create, and Collaborate. The two plots demonstrate two distinct patterns of clinical encounters: dyad 1 had a variable trajectory, where the provider and patient dominated distinct segments in the conversation, whereas dyad 9 had a largely linear, provider-dominated conversation.

Figure 2. Motif types.



Note. The sequence analysis identified four distinct types of communication patterns within clinical encounters: Type 1 = Patient-focused probing; Type 2 = Disclosive exchange, where patient provides information and provider acknowledges the information; Type 3 = Instructive exchange, where patient receives and assesses the information provider shares; Type 4 = Rapport Building.

- Altamirano, J., Kline, M., Schwartz, R., Fassiotto, M., Maldonado, Y., & Weimer-Elder, B. (2022). The effect of a relationship-centred communication program on patient experience and provider wellness. *Patient Education and Counselling*, 105(7), 1988–1995.
- Chou, C. L., & Cooley, L. (2017). *Communication Rx: Transforming healthcare through relationship-centered communication*. McGraw Hill Professional.
- Solomon, D. H., Brinberg, M., Brodie, G. D., Jones, S., & Ram, N. (2021). A dynamic dyadic systems approach to interpersonal communication. *Journal of Communication*, 71(6), 1001–1026.
- Solomon, D. H., Brinberg, M., Bodie, G. D., Jones, S., & Ram, N. (2023). A dynamic dyadic systems perspective on interpersonal conversation. *Communication Methods and Measures*.

**Marie Haverfield** (PhD Rutgers University) is an interpersonal and health communication scholar. She has published numerous studies on features of communication that enhance well-being. After completing an advanced postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University and Department of Veteran Affairs, she joined the San José State University Department of Communication Studies.

**Rachyl Pines** (PhD University of California, Santa Barbara) is a Research Scientist within the Office of Patient Experience at Stanford Medicine, and Adjunct Research Scientist at Sansum Diabetes Research Institute. Rachyl's research aims to develop relationship centered care communication interventions to improve patient and provider experience and wellness.

**Yuwei Li** is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Communication Arts & Sciences at Penn State University. His research interests include interpersonal communication, well-being, and quantitative methods. He has published in outlets such as *Health Communication*, *Journal of Social & Personal Relationships*, and *Annals of the International Communication Association*.

**Daria Titova** (MA) holds a Master of Art in Applied Economics from San Jose State University. She has gained extensive analytical experience from working at companies such as Google and Cisco. In the past few years, she has helped with research and analytics at Health4TheWorld, a non-profit organization.

---

## Morphosyntactic gender stereotypes: An experimental investigation

PEKKA J. POSIO<sup>1</sup>, ANDREA CARCELÉN GUERRERO<sup>1</sup>, CORA THON<sup>2</sup> AND SVEN KACHEL<sup>1,2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>University of Helsinki, Finland; <sup>2</sup>University of Kaiserslautern-Landau, Germany)

---

Gender stereotypes are omnipresent and can be found not only in personality traits, interests, and physical appearance but also in various linguistic levels such as phonetics and lexicon. Gender stereotypes in grammatical features have received little attention, although there is evidence that women and men use personal pronouns, referential expressions, or direct vs. indirect reported speech differently.

In the present study, we investigate whether morphosyntactic features more frequently used by women (e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> person) vs. men (e.g., 3<sup>rd</sup> person) in a text lead to an activation of congruent gender stereotypes. Using an experimental design, participants ( $N = 141$ ) were asked to read a version of the same text with morphosyntactic features more frequently used by women or men (random group assignment). To increase the internal validity, we used a cover story (“Do voice messages make us happier?”). The participants were asked to briefly describe how they imagined the protagonist of the voice message to be like. The answers were coded for feminine, masculine, and gender-ambiguous characteristics in several domains using a self-developed codebook.

In line with the preregistered hypothesis, morphosyntactic features more frequently used by women vs. men lead to a congruent activation of gender stereotypes in other domains (especially personality traits and physical appearance) and a corresponding mental representation of the protagonist’s gender. The results are contextualized concerning gender stereotypes in other linguistic levels and the potential for subtle activation of the gender stereotypes in future studies.

**Pekka Posio** is a Professor of Ibero-Romance Languages at the University of Helsinki. His research focuses on pragmatics, sociolinguistics and morphosyntactic variation, in particular related to pronouns and other referring expressions. His current research project *Language, gender, and society: Evidence from Mexico and Spain* combines sociolinguistic and sociopsychological perspectives.

**Andrea Carcelén Guerrero**, PhD in Advanced Hispanic Studies, linguist, holds a postdoctoral scholarship of the Finnish Kone Foundation at the University of Helsinki. Her research focuses on corpus linguistics, pragmatics and egalitarian language.

**Cora Thon** holds a Bachelor’s degree in psychology which she obtained at the University of Kaiserslautern-Landau. In her Bachelor’s thesis she investigated the relationship of gender stereotypes and language.

**Sven Kachel**, PhD, is a social psychologist and phonetician and holds a postdoctoral scholarship of the Finnish Kone Foundation at the University of Helsinki. His research focuses on stereotypes, social identity, and impression formation related to voices and other signals (e.g., morphosyntax, clothing).

---

## Subjective well-being and social bonds: a comprehensive cross cultural analysis

EWA PALIKOT AND KUBA KRYŚ  
(Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland)

---

The concept of happiness varies across cultures, languages, and time periods. Research consistently shows a positive link between strong social bonds and subjective well-being (Diener & Seligman, 2002, Nilsson et al., 2022). However, many studies rely on existing theories. Our aim was to provide a platform for lay perspectives without imposing additional assumptions.

This mixed-methods study combined qualitative and quantitative techniques to explore lay definitions of a good life, including its five components: happiness, harmony, meaning, religiosity, and spirituality. In the next step we also examined the relationship between social connections and well-being components.

We analyzed written responses from over 1,000 native English speakers from the UK. Participants shared their views on a good life. Additionally, we used human judges' assessments and AI algorithms to create dictionaries of terms related to social affiliations.

While there is linguistic overlap among components, our mixed analysis suggests quantitative methods effectively uncover subtle nuances. Well-being, in its various forms, is fundamentally relational. Spirituality is tied to the self, while happiness is linked to close family and in-group connections. Belonging to different groups or communities emerges as pivotal for perceiving life as religious, meaningful, or harmonious.

This study highlights the nuanced dimensions of a good life and the essential role of social connections in subjective well-being. Results challenge the assumption that happiness is exclusively self-centered and meaning entirely altruistic. This nuanced understanding offers a fresh perspective on the interplay of social connections and a fulfilling life, including subtle cross-cultural differences. The study advances our understanding of well-being by amplifying the voices of individuals in diverse cultural contexts.

Diener, E., & Seligman, M. E. (2002). Very happy people. *Psychological Science*, 13(1), 81-84.

Nilsson, A. H., Hellryd, E., & Kjell, O. (2022). Doing well-being: Self-reported activities are related to subjective well-being. *Plos one*, 17(6), e0270503.

**Ewa Palikot:** With a background in mathematics, she shifted her research interests to the social sciences. Currently a post-doc and a member of the Macropsychology Lab, she focuses on data analysis. She is particularly interested in researching the development of a culturally sensitive subjective well-being model.

**Kuba Kryś:** Specializing in positive cross-cultural psychology, he is an adjunct at the Cultural Psychology Lab, Polish Academy of Sciences. From 2017-2019, he worked at Kyoto University's Kokoro Research Center. He founded the Macropsychology Lab and leads a global research consortium which explores societal development and well-being across over fifty countries.

---

## The impact of political changes in Israel on language and discourse

MALKA MUCHNIK  
(Bar Ilan University, Israel)

---

The 25<sup>th</sup> Israeli Parliament (Knesset) took office on November 2022, while some members were added according to the Norwegian Law, which allows ministers to resign in favor of new members. More religious and right-wing extremist members than ever entered the Parliament and the Government. This political composition has changed deliberations, as well as the language and discourse used.

Language is political from top to bottom (Joseph 2006). This is evident in the talks of these new members of the Knesset. When minority groups feel they actually are the majority, as they have influence over more and more people, they may perceive that the “others” are the enemy and address them as such. Applying Political Discourse Analysis, we can discern strategies used by speakers when presenting their ideologies (Dunmire 2012, Van Dijk 2015, Wilson 2015).

The present study is based on the official protocols of the plenum debates of the current Knesset, focusing on speeches delivered by members of the new parties or referring to them. For instance, this is what MP [Vladimir Beliak](#) (Yesh Atid) said on 24.7.23: “This government, which is largely made up of corrupt urchins, people who were convicted of supporting terrorism, homophobes and misogynists [...] The one who manages the Likud is a brat who now holds the position of Minister of National Security, a convicted criminal who was convicted of terrorism” (my translation). The persons alluded here are not from the Likud, but he blames it for including them in the coalition.

The findings of this qualitative study allowed us to distinguish both overt and covert messages, showing a clear change in the speeches held in the Knesset. While in the past they were known for respecting the institution and its members, in the last two years we observe an increased use of “unparliamentary language”.

Dunmire, P.L. (2012). Political discourse analysis: Exploring the language of politics and the politics of Language. *Language and Linguistics* 6 (11), 719-734.

Joseph, J.E. (ed.) (2010). *Language and politics*. Routledge.

[Van Dijk](#), T.A. (2015). Critical discourse analysis. In [D. Tannen](#), [H.E. Hamilton](#) & [D. Schiffrin](#) (Eds.), *The handbook of discourse analysis* (pp. 466-485). John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

[Wilson](#), J. (2015). Political Discourse. In [D. Tannen](#), [H.E. Hamilton](#) & [D. Schiffrin](#) (Eds.), *The handbook of discourse analysis* (pp. 775-794). John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Prof. **Malka Muchnik** has retired from the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Languages, Bar-Ilan University, Israel. Her main expertise is on Sociolinguistics. She is author of Language-Culture-Society (2022), The Gender Challenge of Hebrew (2015) and Elective Language Learning and Policy in Israel: A Sociolinguistic and Educational Study (first author, 2016).

---

**A psycholinguistic study of the war testimonies of Ukrainians in social media**

SERHII ZASIEKIN

(Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University, Ukraine)

---

This study aims to identify psycholinguistic markers of war-related trauma in the narratives of contemporary Ukrainians – witnesses of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. Using the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count – LIWC 2015 software (Pennebaker et al., 2015) and t-test, we analysed 360 publicly available testimonies from the Facebook/X group "Writings from the War", written during the first year and a half of the war, and a reference corpus of 100 literary prose texts by Ukrainian authors. The Facebook narratives revealed three prominent LIWC categories: 'We', 'Social' and 'Family', which reflect trust and protection among people grouping together in the face of threats. A closely related finding is the greater significance of the categories of 'Affiliation' and 'Achievement' in the Facebook corpus compared to the literary corpus. This suggests that after a year and a half of resistance and fighting against the enemy, Ukrainians praise their advances. Moreover, the war stories on Facebook revealed three significant topics, in particular: 'Work', 'Home' and 'Death'. Using special text analysis formulas, we defined the Categorical and Dynamic Index, i.e. the style of text production – analytical or narrative. The data showed that Facebook authors preferred analytical style, focusing more on cognitive reprocessing of their painful experiences, thus demonstrating community resilience, which is seen as a positive trend (Pennebaker & Seagal, 1999). These findings are basically in line with our previous study of 'Writings from the War' (Zasiekin et al., 2022), which were posted during the first six months of the Russian invasion. However, the LIWC topics of 'Work', 'Home' and 'Death' did not gain significance in those stories then.

Pennebaker, J. W., Boyd, R. L., Jordan, K., & Blackburn, K. (2015). *The development and psychometric properties of LIWC2015*. University of Texas at Austin.

Pennebaker, J. W., & Seagal, J. D. (1999). Forming a story: The health benefits of narrative. *Journal of clinical psychology*, 55(10), 1243-1254.

Zasiekin, S., Kuperman, V., Hlova, I., & Zasiekina, L. (2022). War stories in social media: personal experience of Russia-Ukraine war. *East European Journal of Psycholinguistics*, 9(2), 160-170. <https://doi.org/10.29038/eejpl.2022.9.2.zas>

Writings from the War. <https://www.facebook.com/WritingsFromTheWar>

X. <https://twitter.com/WarWritings>

**Serhii Zasiekin, PhD** is a Ukrainian psycholinguist and professor in the Department of Applied Linguistics at Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University in Lutsk, Ukraine. He is also Editor-in-Chief of *East European Journal of Psycholinguistics*. His research interests include psycholinguistics, ethics of translation, and the literary legacy of Bohdan Lepkyi. He serves as Vice-President of the Ukrainian Association of Psycholinguists (UAP) and is a member of the International Society of Applied Psycholinguistics (ISAPL).

## Wearable technologies' influence on relational dynamics

J. NAN WILKENFELD<sup>1</sup>, ALAN CRAWLEY<sup>1</sup>, NORAH E. DUNBAR<sup>1</sup> AND DIVYA SRINIVASAN<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup>UC Santa Barbara, United States; <sup>2</sup>Clemson University, United States)

The integration of technologies such as exoskeleton suits for augmenting human abilities in industrial settings necessitates advanced human-machine collaboration, which influences user interactions, power dynamics, and organizational frameworks (de Looze et al., 2016; Wilkenfeld et al., 2023). Power shapes communication and decision-making processes, often unconsciously, and the implementation of exoskeletons may alter power dynamics and impact organizational structures (Dunbar, 2004; Dunbar, 2016; Kirkwood et al., 2022). Exoskeleton users might gain influence and positional power due to their technical adeptness, and non-users may increase dominance behaviors with other non-users to maintain or challenge existing hierarchies (Kirkwood et al., 2022). Thus, our research asks: How does introduction of an exoskeleton technology impact relationship dynamics between partners and between dyads? Our experiment consisted of an exoskeleton condition (one exoskeleton wearer) and non-exoskeleton condition. We used a passive exoskeleton device, the SuitX BackX™ which involves a waist harness connected to a lightweight metal frame attached to the wearer's torso and upper thigh (BackX, 2021). A total of N=118 undergraduates participated in 60 dyads (40 exo/20 non-exo). After consenting, participants completed three tasks: an icebreaker Jenga game, a box-moving task, and a table moving task. Exo-wearing participants put on the device just prior to the box-moving task.

To answer our question, we used Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC) software to assess the three linguistic components as conceptualized by Denger and Rosenthal (1990; as cited in Driskell et al., 2013) between partners and exo/non-exo dyads. Preliminary analysis revealed significant differences in rapport components such as the use of first-person plural pronouns (e.g. *we*) between dyads with the exoskeleton and no-exoskeleton dyads, with partners in the no-exoskeleton condition having more linguistic expressions of rapport than pairs in which one partner was wearing an exoskeleton. This provides evidence that introducing the exoskeleton can disrupt relationship dynamics between partners working together on a task.

BackX (2021). SuitX. Retrieved May 10, 2023, from <https://www.suitx.com/backX>

De Looze, M. P., Bosch, T., Krause, F., Stadler, K. S., & O'Sullivan, L. W. (2016). Exoskeletons for industrial application and their potential effects on physical work load. *Ergonomics*, 59(5), 671–681.

Driskell, T., Blickensderfer, E. L., & Salas, E. (2013). Is three a crowd? Examining rapport in investigative interviews. *Group Dynamics: Theory, Research, and Practice*, 17(1), 1–13.

Dunbar, N. E. (2004). Dyadic Power Theory: Constructing a communication-based theory of relational power. *Journal of Family Communication*, 4, 235–248. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15267431.2004.9670133>

Dunbar, N. E., Lane, B. L. & Abra, G. (2016). Power in close relationships: A dyadic power theory perspective. J. A. Sampa (Ed.), *Communicating Interpersonal Conflict in Close Relationships: Contexts, Challenges and Opportunities* (pp. 75-93). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315774237>

Kirkwood, G. K., Wilkenfeld, J. N., & Dunbar, N. (2022). Exoskeletons and the Future of Work: Envisioning Power and Control in a Workforce Without Limits. *Human-Machine Communication*, 4, 187–206.

Wilkenfeld, J. N., Kim, S., Upasani, S., Kirkwood, G. L., Dunbar, N. E., & Srinivasan, D. (2023). Sensemaking, adaptation and agency in human-exoskeleton synchrony. *Frontiers in Robotics and AI*, 10, 1207052.

**J. Nan Wilkenfeld** studies increasingly interdependent relationships between humans and emerging intelligent technologies; focusing on interpersonal power dynamics between humans and their machine partners. Her work has explored the influences of, and impacts on agency and identity, and how these technologies might shape human communication, organizing, and broader society.

**Alan Crawley** received a Bachelor's degree in Psychology with honors from Universidad del Salvador, Argentina. His extensive research in Nonverbal Communication (NVC), employs interdisciplinary perspectives and methodologies, and focuses on theoretical developments, passion, and facial expressions within NVC.. Professional contributions include lecturing on NVC in university courses, online platforms, and corporate events.

**Norah E. Dunbar** studies how dominance, synchrony and other nonverbal behaviors affect impressions in interpersonal relationships, as well as connections between power, credibility, and persuasion. She has received over \$18 Million in research funding, has over 100 publications and over 120 conference papers, and is an ICA Fellow.

**Divya Srinivasan's** research is focused on assessing and improving human physical performance, understanding and modeling human biomechanics, movement control, and studies on motor learning and skills training. She directs the Biomechanics, Ergonomics, Safety and Training (BEST) lab at Clemson.

## Some useful links

### Tallinn Airport

[Leaving the Airport](#)

[Getting to the Airport](#)

[Public Transport in Tallinn](#)

[Taxi & ridesharing in Tallinn](#)

[DIGITAL TALLINN](#)

[Visit Tallinn](#)

[Between Helsinki and Tallinn onboard a ferry](#)

[Weather forecast in the Internet](#)

### Visit Tartu

[European Capital of Culture: Tartu 2024](#)

[How to get to Tartu by bus](#)

[Tallinn and Tartu Bus Stations](#)

## Safety guidelines

Crime levels in Tallinn are low but take sensible precautions as you would elsewhere: be vigilant for pickpockets in crowded places, do not leave your belongings unattended, and drink in moderation.

If you do need to report a crime, you can do so by contacting the emergency number 112, submitting a written report in person to the nearest police authority, or by e-mail to the relevant prefecture. You can find the necessary forms and instructions on the webpage of the [Estonian Police and Border Guard Board](#).

When using taxis, prefer official service providers who have a licence from the city of Tallinn or use one of the many ridesharing apps available. Read more about taxi services from our [corresponding transport section](#).

## Pharmacies

Pharmacies are usually open from 10:00-19:00. Two of them stay open all night:

- [City centre \(Südameapteek\): Tõnismägi 5](#), tel. +372 644 2282
- [Lasnamägi \(Südameapteek\): Vikerlase 19](#), tel. +372 638 4338.

Pharmacies in shopping centres are usually open from 9:00-21:00.

**The abstracts in this Abstract Book follow authors' style and grammar without editing.**

# **3rd International Symposium on Intergroup Communication (ISIC3)**

**June 23 – 26, 2025**

**Hosted by University of Warsaw, Poland**

**Organized by Karolina Hansen, Howard Giles, and Antonis Gardikiotis**



**The 3rd International Symposium on Intergroup Communication (ISIC3: 2025)** will be held between 23 to 26 June 2025. The conference brings together scholars across disciplines who engage in research and analysis concerning the role of intergroup communication in society. It will host a number of panels across diverse areas including, but not limited to, health, culture, and current political issues. Discipline diversity is the hallmark of ISIC3 and includes psychology, communication, anthropology, sociology and applied linguistics.

Full details regarding the call for papers, additional information and conference updates are available and updated here - <https://isic3.psych.uw.edu.pl/>. The conference will feature distinguished Keynote Speakers: Dominic Abrams, Camiel J. Beukeboom, Michał Bilewicz, Jake Harwood, Nicholas A. Palomares, & Yan Bing Zhang.

**International Organizing Committee:** Michael Hogg (USA), Sucharita Belavadi (India), Miles Hewstone (UK), Anastassia Zabrodskaia (Estonia), Richard Clément (Canada), Liz Jones (Malaysia), Bernadette Watson (Hong Kong), Hiroshi Ota (Japan), & Monica Rubini (Italy)

**Local Committee (University of Warsaw):** Karolina Hansen, Maria Mirucka, Michał Wypych, & Kamila Zochniak

All proposals received by January 31, 2025 will be reviewed and corresponding authors notified of the status of their submissions by February 28, 2025. ISIC3 will result in a Special Issue of the journal *Psychology of Language and Communication*. Any queries, please contact us at [isic3.conference@psych.uw.edu.pl](mailto:isic3.conference@psych.uw.edu.pl).

# Save the Date

**May 2026  
Tucson, Arizona, USA**

**ICLASP 19  
Tucson**

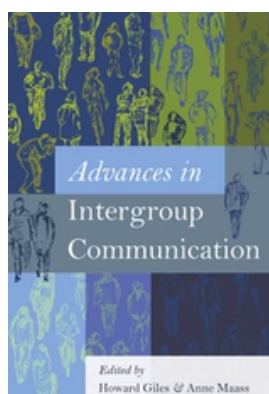
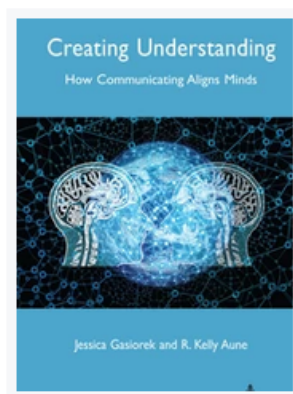
**University of  
Arizona**



hosted by the  
**Department of  
Communication**

# LANGUAGE AS SOCIAL ACTION

[WWW.PETERLANG.COM/SERIES/LASA](http://WWW.PETERLANG.COM/SERIES/LASA)



Scan here for more  
information on the  
series



## Upcoming titles include:

*New directions for, and Panaceas Arising from, Communication  
Accommodation Theory*  
Howard Giles, Dave Markowitz, & David Clementson (Eds.)

*Health Communication as an Intergroup Phenomenon*  
Bernadette Watson

**30% OFF**

with code **ICLASP18**  
at [peterlang.com](http://peterlang.com)