

Cross-individual variation in speech perception and production

Alan Yu

An important source of systematic variation in language comes from individual differences in cognitive processing style. In this talk, I review findings from recent studies in speech processing and speech production, showing the perception and production of coarticulated speech is mediated by differences in cognitive processing style, such as “autistic traits,” as measured by the Autism Spectrum Quotient (AQ), in neurotypicals. That is, cognitive processing styles that are associated with skills such as communication, social interaction, attention-switching, and empathy affect the way coarticulatory information is perceived by human listeners and the way coarticulated speech is realized. I will also discuss the ramification of such findings for phonology and sound change in general.