

ASSTA
NEWSLETTERS

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second ASSTA Newsletter for 2015.

The President’s report from Denis presents a review of ASSTA for 2016 including the successful securing of ICPHS 2019 to Melbourne and other ASSTA supported activities.

The “News” section of the newsletter reports on the many successes of ASSTA members. It is great to share so please send your good news items to secretary@assta.org. This issue sees books, fellows, council members, grant success, and the like.

No less than ten travel reports are included in this edition of the newsletter! All awardees attended the ICPHS 2015 held in Glasgow. It is great to see ASSTA being able to support our up and coming researchers to international events.

Don’t forget, when you have news and information to publicise about speech science, this is the place to do it. So keep sending information and updates about your work and upcoming events. Also ASSTA has a number of grant initiatives available to financial members of ASSTA, including travel awards, supporting events and other special initiatives. See here for more details: <http://www.assta.org/?q=assta-grants-program>

ASSTA strives to do its best for its members. This is enhanced by support from its members which includes payment of membership dues, participation in ASSTA activities and the promotion of ASSTA. So, please do you best to renew your dues and encourage your colleagues to join.

Have a happy, safe and relaxing holiday time...unless you are a typical academic who sees leave as the perfect time to write grants and papers!

 **Trent Lewis**

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ASSTA Information

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Contributions should be sent to the newsletter team via email as plain text or as an attachment in Rich Text Format (RTF), Microsoft Word (DOC), or PDF.

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President's Report



International Conferences Koalas Abroad at ICPHS

In August this year, Marija Tabain, accompanied by a contingent of Australian and New Zealand researchers across the Phonetic Sciences spectrum, and a large regiment of Clip-On Koalas descended upon the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS) in Glasgow. Building upon years of preliminary planning, and more lately months of dedicated hard work, Marija had with her a convincing case for ICPHS 2019 to be held in Melbourne. Behind closed doors Marija faced the might of the Permanent Council for the Organisation of the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences. Extra-murally we Antipodean observers waited in a silence. At one stage there was the leaked communique that the Committee wanted more information: we believe questions like 'is AFL a religious cult?', 'what is a Flat White?'. Finally, there was a puff of white smoke, and later at the Closing Ceremony, Marija gave an acceptance speech and invited the delegates to Melbourne in 2019. Then the koalas, freed from their cardboard confines, did their duty – they passed from hand to hand, they flew through the air, they adorned satchels and hair and lapels and small children and later, using their lowered larynx to great advantage, led renditions of 'Waltzing Matilda' and 'God Defend New Zealand' in

pubs and karaoke bars, and in slightly unsteady waddles back home that night.

This will greatly facilitate internationalisation of Phonetic Sciences in Australia and New Zealand. Our students, many more than can usually attend international conferences, will be there; there will be ample opportunities for Australasian-focused Special Sessions within the Congress, and Satellites surrounding the Congress; and opportunities to engage with the cream of the world's researchers in speech production, speech acoustics, speech perception, speech prosody, sound change, phonology, sociophonetics, language typology, first and second language acquisition, forensic phonetics, speaking styles, voice quality, clinical phonetics and speech technology and much much more – both at the Congress and in separate University visits that punters might like to organise.

Congratulations to Marija Tabain and her Co-Chairs – Paola Escudero from Western Sydney University, and Sasha Calhoun from the Victoria University of Wellington.

National Conferences SST 2016

Next year, the 16th Australasian International Speech Science and Technology Conference will mark the 30th anniversary of the first SST at ANU in 1986. In a more local version of planning, hard work and anticipatory fervour, it was decided that SST'16 will be held at the University of Western Sydney (UWS) in December 2016. Upon hearing of this honour, UWS changed its name to Western Sydney University and engaged in a multi-million dollar marketing campaign in order to highlight SST'16. A WSU team of MARCS Institute (Paola Escudero, Chris Carignan, Marina Kalashnikova, Heather



President's Report

Kember), Psychology (Karen Mattock, Michael Tyler) and Linguistics (Jason Shaw) personnel are now working on SST'16.

ASSTA Research Grants Schemes

The ASSTA Grant Scheme is designed to foster speech science and technology research in Australasia and fall into the following categories.

Travel awards (up to \$500 to Student and Early Career ordinary members to support paper presentation at relevant conferences). In 2015 there were **ten** awards to students traveling to ICPhS 2015 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Research Events (up to \$5K, up to 2 awards pa). In 2015 there was **no** awards handed out, although 2 applications have been received in the final round with decisions still pending.

New Researcher Awards (open to all postgraduate research students and people no more than 2 years beyond their highest degree – \$750 towards SST costs plus SST conference dinner funding for up to 6 applicants. No SST in 2015

Special Initiative Awards (up to 2 awards per annum of up to \$5K in order to encourage and promote national high-level initiatives in speech science and technology in Australasia by supporting ASSTA members' applications for nationally competitive research grants). No applications and no awards this year.

ASSTA-supported Projects

The ASSTA Special Initiative Awards, as above, were formalised in 2013, partly in response to a number of requests for support, financial and academic, for grant applications. These included: the Australian Research Council Linkage Project, *Making demonstrably*

valid and reliable forensic voice comparison a practical everyday reality led by Geoffrey Morrison, which was completed in 2014; the Australian Research Council Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities (ARC LIEF) project, *The Big Australian Speech Corpus (Big ASC)*, which is just now completed; and the ongoing *Virtual Lab for Human Communication Science (HCS vLab* see <http://alveo.edu.au/>) funded by a NeCTAR (National eResearch Collaboration Tools & Resources) Virtual Laboratory Grant and contributions from 13 Universities and 3 Organisations (one of these being ASSTA). The final report for AusTalk has now been submitted and a summary of this is provided below.

The Big Australian Speech Corpus (Big ASC) project has now officially ended, with the submission of a final report to the ARC a version of which is in this newsletter.

I take this opportunity to swap hats and thank ASSTA for their support of AusTalk, and all the contributing organisations and CIs, technical staff and research assistants, and especially Dominique Estival (AusTalk Project Manager) and Steve Cassidy. For further details of AusTalk please see austalk.edu.au.

AusTalk has arrived, but it is far from being a static database. It is now housed in an environment (Alveo) that will allow (i) upload of further speech data (collected by the distributed Black Boxes or other means) similar to what is there or additional data not covered in the original project (e.g., child data, migrant Australian Englishes, New Zealand English, Aboriginal languages, etc.), and (ii) analysis via various tools.

Denis Burnham,
ASSTA President,
December, 2015

News

Permanent Council of the International Phonetic

there are now three ASSTA members on the Permanent Council of the International Phonetic Association: **Marija Tabain**, **Janet Fletcher**, and **Gerry Docherty**. All three will serve from 2015-2019. Moreover, Gerry has been elected Secretary.

Australia-Germany Joint Grant Program Success

The Australia-Germany joint grant program run by the Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst (DAAD) has awarded a 2016-2018 grant to a Western Sydney University team involving **Anne Cutler** and **Heather Kember**, also both members of the CoE Dynamics of Language. They will be working together with a group in SW Germany (at the universities of Tuebingen, Freiburg, Konstanz and Stuttgart). The research topic will be prosodic processing in German and English in both L1 and L2.

Marsden grants from the Royal Society of NZ

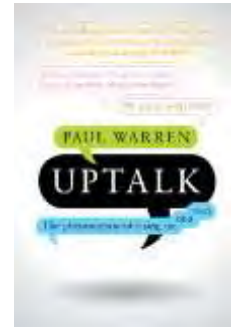
In the recent round of Marsden grants from the Royal Society of NZ, Prof **Miriam Meyerhoff** from Victoria with Dr **Catherine Watson**, Dr **Elaine Ballard** and Dr **Helen Charters** from the University of Auckland were awarded a standard grant, 'Rethinking language change in a super-diverse city', to look and language change related to super-diversity in New Zealand English in the Auckland region.

Fast Start Grant

Sasha Calhoun was awarded a Fast Start grant, 'Searching for a shared world: the integration of prosody and word ordering in cross-linguistic speech perception', to look at prosody perception in Samoan and English.

New Book!

A/Prof **Paul Warren** has a new book due for publication with Cambridge University Press in December, 'Uptalk: the Phenomenon of Rising Intonation'.



Academy of the Social Sciences of Australia

Congratulations to Macquarie University's Distinguished Professor of Linguistics, **Katherine Demuth**, on being elected a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. Professor Demuth was formally welcomed to the Academy at the Fellows' Dinner and Annual General Meeting on 17-18 November 2015.

PhD submission

Congratulations **Kiri Mealings**, who, on September 30, 2015, submitted her PhD thesis entitled "An investigation into how the acoustics of open plan and enclosed classrooms affects speech perception for Kindergarten children."





Flyers



MACQUARIE
University



Australian Government
Australian Research Council



The Child Language Lab, Macquarie University, invites you to the

Language Development Series workshop

Developmental Perspectives on Language Processing

Macquarie University
May 12-13, 2016

Keynote speakers:

Phaedra Royle, Université de Montréal **Jesse Snedeker, Harvard University**

Karsten Steinhauer, McGill University **John Trueswell, University of Pennsylvania**

www.ccd.edu.au/events/conferences/2016/langdev/index.html

Funded by the Centre for Language Sciences (CLaS),
Australian Research Council (ARC) FL130100014, the Child Language Lab Macquarie University and
the ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders (CCD)

ASSTA Special Research Initiative

Final Report Big ASC Dominique Estival



The Big Australian Speech Corpus (Big ASC) project has now officially ended, with the submission of a final report to the ARC. Funded in 2010 from a LIEF grant, and with support from 11 universities and from ASSTA, this project was a large one, with 30 CIs and 15 data collection sites. A good overview of the project can be gained from the AusTalk website (<https://austalk.edu.au/>). The twin aims were to (i) establish the basic infrastructure vital for good speech science research in Australia, i.e. a network of equipment for collecting audio-visual speech across Australia; and (ii) to create *AusTalk*, the largest audio-visual corpus of Australian English (AusE). There were many challenges along the way, leading to delays in several stages of the project. Nevertheless, after several meetings of all CIs and other experts, consensus was reached on (i) the optimal hardware components for the Standard Speech Science Infrastructure Black Boxes, and on (ii) the optimal corpus components of the Standard Speech Collection Protocol. Building the 12 recording platforms (Black Boxes) was completed in August 2011, and they were shipped to the recording sites with the SSCP software which was designed to automate and standardise the recording process.

The main considerations for the collection protocol were to ensure social and geographic variability and a wide variety of speech contexts for different applications (forensic, phonetics, etc.). Within-speaker variation is ensured by having three 1-hour sessions per speaker (at a minimum of 1 week interval), with both read speech (digits, yes/no, HvD words (e.g. 'had'), sentences, story) and spontaneous speech (interview, MapTask, conversation). Between-speakers variation comes from the recruitment

ensuring a balance of gender, age (3 adult age ranges), regional diversity (all states and territories), socio-economic groups, plus indigenous/non-indigenous for one recording site.

A centralised training session for the Recording Assistants from the 15 sites guaranteed a level of consistency and standardisation in the data collection which began in June 2011. Although inevitable delays were caused by variable availability of test rooms (necessitating temporary shut-downs and re-calibration of the Black Box to different rooms), or RAs being replaced (necessitating on-site visits to ensure adherence to the standardised protocol), it was completed in June 2015. The resulting corpus, *AusTalk*, contains audio-visual data for 861 AusE speakers across Australia. It is hosted at Macquarie University and is now secure on RDSI and available through the *Alveo* Virtual Laboratory. Adding a longitudinal dimension to the project, 4 of the participants in the earlier Australian National Database Of Spoken Language data collection (ANDOSL, 1995) participated in *AusTalk*, providing invaluable data for the study of the evolution of AusE.

Approaches to automatic annotation and transcription were investigated and solutions implemented, strengthening international collaborations. Complete annotations at the phoneme and word levels are available for the read speech of 100 speakers, and complete manual transcriptions are available for all the spontaneous speech of 5 of those speakers. The great achievement of the *AusTalk* annotation task has been the creation of a new model for AusE that allows for time aligned phonemic annotations to be returned in Praat Texttrids upon presentation of orthographic and audio input,

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Final Report Big ASC Dominique Estival



which means that AusE data can now be efficiently and effectively processed automatically.

The Big ASC will continue to engender advances in Australian and international speech science research. The *AusTalk* corpus is available to other researchers and commercial developers. The network of 12 Black Boxes will continue to be used for further audio-visual speech data collection, adding to and complementing the *AusTalk* corpus, thus enriching our knowledge of the linguistic diversity in Australia and providing appropriate data for Australian speech technology applications, such as speech recognition, speech synthesis, speaker recognition and authentication, audio-visual information retrieval, as well as better targeted speech training and education materials. Already, new data collections are

under way, e.g. speakers of Chinese background in Canberra. (see <https://austalk.edu.au/research-projects-using-austalk>. for details on some projects using the *AusTalk* corpus).

The Big ASC project led directly to a successful grant application proposal for a Human Communications Science Virtual Laboratory, funded by the National eResearch Collaboration Tools and Resources (NeCTAR) Project, an Australian Government project conducted as part of the Super Science initiative and financed by the Education Investment Fund. The Alveo Virtual Laboratory (see <http://alveo.edu.au/>) houses 7 HCS databases (including *AusTalk*) and 11 sets of tools for speech, language and video analysis.



A recording session from Sydney University

ASSTA Travel Reports

The 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences ICPhS 2015 Aug 10 – Aug 14, 2015

Jia Hoong (Joey) Ong
The MARCS Institute
Western Sydney University

I attended the 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS 2015) in Glasgow, Scotland with my colleagues from The MARCS Institute. It was my first large-scale international conference and it was a week full of inspiring and engaging talks by academics and students from various fields.

The conference kicked off with two plenary lectures by Prof. Patrice Beddor and Prof. Anne Cutler and ended with two plenary lectures by Prof. Frank Guenther and Prof. Simon King. The common theme among Prof. Beddor's and Prof. Cutler's lectures was that individual differences in speech perception needs to be taken into consideration in our research, which may help us deepen our understanding of what we already know about speech perception.

I was very fortunate to be able to share an experiment that I conducted as part of my PhD via a poster titled 'Mandarin listeners can learn non-native lexical tones through distributional learning'. I received a lot of valuable feedback which I will incorporate in my manuscript on which I am currently working.

I also had the opportunity to present a talk on distributional learning which is based on a paper on which I was second-author. It was slightly nerve-wrecking to be speaking to a roomful of delegates who are experts in the field but the comments were helpful and I truly appreciate just having the experience of presenting a talk in front of them.

Not only did I managed to make a few new contacts and networked, I bonded with my colleagues from MARCS. On the last night of the conference, we had dinner with some of MARCS academics. It was a relaxing night of Greek food, red wine, and insightful conversations.

Overall, I truly enjoyed my experience at ICPhS. I am grateful to ASSTA for the Travel Award which made the experience possible.



Presenting my poster title 'Mandarin listeners can learn non-native lexical tones through distributional learning'.

Sarah Fenwick
The MARCS Institute
Western Sydney University

The International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS) is a conference that calls for papers from a broad range of topics, such as *Speech Production and Articulatory Phonetics, Forensic Phonetics and Speaker Characteristics*, as well as

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Multimodal Phonetics. It is held once every four years, and this year it was held in Glasgow, United Kingdom (August 10th-14th).

A total of 778 papers were presented, 267 of which were submitted by students. There were 4 plenary lectures, on a span of interesting topics, including: 1) *The relation between users' perception and production repertoires*, by Prof. Patrice Speeter Baddor; 2) *Big issues in speech perception: Abstraction and nativeness*, by Prof. Anne Cutler, 3) *The neural control of speech: From computational modelling to neural prosthesis*, by Prof. Frank Guenther, as well as, 4) *What speech synthesis can do for you (and what you can do for speech synthesis)*, by Prof. Jonathan Harrington. A great addition to this year's ICPhS was the introduction of discussant sessions. These were specialised sessions that included an introduction to the topic by a leading specialist in the field (e.g., Speech Perception – Discussant Prof. Valerie Hazan), followed by a selection of session papers, ending with an opportunity for discussion between the audience and presenters.

Although it took approximately 30 hours to fly from Sydney, Australia to Glasgow, Scotland, it was well worth the travel. ICPhS is my first international conference to attend, and I had the pleasure of presenting research from my PhD, a talk entitled: “Non-native Discrimination across Speaking Style, Modality and Phonetic Feature”. I presented on the second day of the conference,

during the ‘Topics in Speech Production and Perception’ session, chaired by Asst Prof. Tessa Bent. I explained the way in which naïve listeners may gain a perceptual advantage when discriminating non-native speech sounds, specifically, with the assistance of seeing the speaker’s articulatory movements (e.g., lips, tongue, teeth), and when the speaker uses ‘clear speech’ to enhance speech clarity. From the diverse range of audience members, I received interesting questions and feedback that will assist with my future publications, and the writing of my thesis.

Overall, attending the 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences was a fantastic opportunity to present my research, as well as discover new information about upcoming research. I was able to network, and meet many fellow academics during the social gatherings, including the Congress welcome reception, at the Glasgow Science Centre, and the conference party - which was held in the indoor courtyard of Merchant Square, where a total of 810 people were in attendance! I am very much looking forward to the next ICPhS conference, which is a little closer to home, in Melbourne, 2019.

I would also like to thank ASSTA – I am very appreciative to have been selected for a Travel award that provides student members like myself, as well as early career members, the opportunity to seek funding to attend international conferences.

Conference venue:
Scottish
Exhibition and
Conference Centre
(SECC).



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Valeria Peretokina
The MARCS Institute
Western Sydney University

I would like to take this opportunity to thank ASSTA for selecting me as one of the Travel Award recipients and for making a valuable contribution to my trip to Glasgow to attend the 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS 2015).

My paper entitled “Perception of English codas in various phonological and morphological contexts by Mandarin learners of English” was accepted for an oral presentation and the experience of giving a talk at such a prestigious conference was truly amazing and definitely one of the highlights of my PhD candidature. Of course, I was slightly nervous to present in front of such a big and knowledgeable audience, but at the same time it was really exciting to share my findings with them and to receive so much support and encouragement from everyone in my session. Looking back, I enjoyed the Q&A session after my talk the most as there were a lot of insightful comments and helpful suggestions on possible future directions I could take with my project.

Overall, ICPhS gave me a strong sense of community as it was a great platform to network, establish new connections with researchers working in different fields, communicate ideas and ask questions in a supportive environment. Attending presentations and poster sessions has definitely broadened my outlook by introducing me to research areas I was unfamiliar with before and made me think about possible projects that could be done in future. I feel like ICPhS helped me grow professionally and gain more confidence in my research as well as in my writing and presentation skills. I am also very happy to say that some of the connections I have made at the conference have extended beyond it and we still keep in touch.

It is important to mention that the same award was granted to five other PhD students from the MARCS Institute, which made it possible for all of us to attend ICPhS and share this unique experience. We worked very hard to prepare for the conference and I was extremely happy to see everyone do so well! I guess, all of us would agree that ICPhS was a very memorable event and we are very grateful ASSTA contributed to our trip.



MARCS PhD students having dinner with the ‘grown ups’: Prof. Cathi Best, Prof. Anne Cutler, and Prof. Denis Burnham.

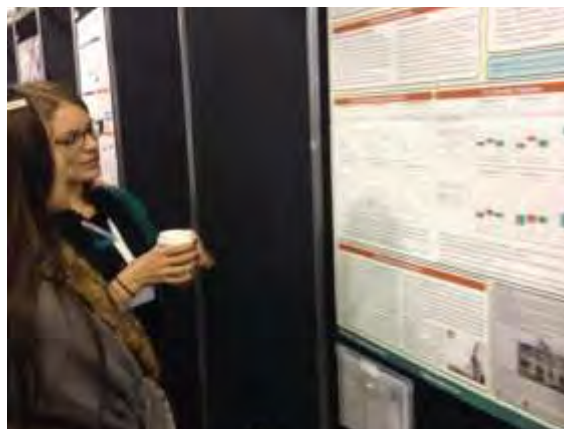
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Rosey Billington
University of Melbourne

In August 2015, I attended the 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow, which put on some delightfully sunny weather for the visiting phoneticians. The congress was co-organised by the University of Edinburgh, the University of Glasgow, Queen Margaret University, and the University of Strathclyde. With a total of 774 papers accepted for the congress, the nearly 1,000 attendees were spoilt for choice, and enjoyed quality oral and poster presentations across all areas of the phonetic sciences. These were bookended by engaging plenary talks by Patrice Speeter Beddor and Anne Cutler on the first day, and by Frank Guenther and Simon King on the last day, who provided detailed overviews of the ‘state of the art’ in their respective areas of expertise.

Oral talks were divided into seven parallel sessions, and poster presentations were held over seven separate sessions. In one of these, I presented on *Lexical tone in Lopit*, discussing aspects of my PhD research on the phonetics and phonology of Lopit, an Eastern Nilotic language of South Sudan. The poster sessions were extremely well-attended, and allowed attendees the opportunity to seek feedback and have extended and insightful discussions and debates. The Discussant Sessions, which were themed sessions drawing together several papers on a thought-provoking theme, similarly fostered discussion, guided by a leading specialist assigned to each session. Discussant Sessions were held in five parallel sessions on the first day, and another five on the last day, and I attended the session on Tone and Intonation and then the session on Sociophonetics. A flurry of social media activity kept attendees updated on what was happening in the concurrent sessions, and on other interesting findings and comments over the course of the congress.

Mid-week, on the Wednesday, the afternoon was given over to several satellite meetings, providing ICPHS attendees with another opportunity to settle in and discuss specific areas of phonetics. I attended the workshop on ‘Geminate Consonants Around the World’, organised by the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, and thoroughly enjoyed the talks by invited speakers, which together gave a broad crosslinguistic overview of geminate consonants, and summed up what we do and don’t know about their nature and behaviour. In the associated poster session, I presented on *Geminate glides in Eastern Nilotic: Evidence from Lopit*. By the time Thursday evening arrived, the conference attendees were ready to relax. They turned from thinking about gestural coordination in the vocal tract to other types of coordination; the congress party at Merchant Square featured a rousing ceilidh band, whose tunes drew a respectable number of phoneticians onto the dance floor, with members of the local organising committee setting the pace.



During the closing ceremony on the Friday afternoon, the audience loudly applauded the local organisers and volunteers for their efforts in putting on an extremely well-run and enjoyable conference. The congress closed with the exciting announcement that the 19th ICPHS congress, in 2019, will be held in Melbourne, and hosted by the Australasian Speech Science and Technology

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Society. I am very grateful to ASSTA for supporting my attendance at the 2015 ICPHS; this was my first ICPHS congress, and I found the experience so intellectually stimulating that I am already looking forward to the next one, which will also be the first ICPHS held in the Southern Hemisphere.

Laurence Bruggeman
Western Sydney University

I am very grateful to ASSTA for granting me an ASSTA travel award to attend the 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS2015) in Glasgow, Scotland, this August. With close to one thousand delegates (including a contingent of nearly 40 researchers from Australia and New Zealand), the conference was very well attended. In fact, some sessions in the first two days proved so popular that people had to queue outside seminar rooms for entire talks in the hopes of securing a spot for the next one. This was the case, e.g., for the Speech Comprehension session and for a session dedicated to Perceptual Learning (or, as the security guard at the door to that session kept calling it, “perpetual learning”!). As a result, many people missed out on the talks they had wanted to attend and luckily the organising committee managed to find some bigger seminar rooms for the second half of the week!

On a personal level, the conference provided a great opportunity for me to catch up with collaborators and former colleagues and to discuss my experimental results with the researchers whose work I’ve built on. It was also a very valuable chance to connect with potential future collaborators and employers.

The paper I submitted to ICPHS had been selected for inclusion in one of the discussant sessions. These were themed sessions in which the four oral presentations were preceded by a 15-minute introduction by the discussant and followed by a

15-minute discussion between all presenters and the audience. While I have to admit it was slightly intimidating at first to be a part of this special session, it turned out to be a great experience from which I learnt a lot. Thank you, ASSTA, for contributing towards my participation in ICPHS2015!

Eleanor Lewis
University of Melbourne

The 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS 2015) was held from the 10th to the 14th of August this year in Glasgow, Scotland. Along with a substantial contingent of fellow Australasian researchers, I attended this vast, information-packed meeting, with a total of 395 oral presentations spread across the five-day Congress, plus seven poster sessions boasting a total of 375 posters, there was always something fascinating to see, and often two or three equally enticing talks presented concurrently in different parallel sessions. Indeed, for many of us the choice of which sessions to attend proved to be rather a challenge as we pored over the programme! In addition to the ample programme of talks and poster sessions, the Congress offered four brilliant and diverse plenaries, delivered by Patrice Beddor, Anne Cutler, Frank Guenther, and Simon King, spanning topics of the relationship between language users’ perception and production repertoires, abstraction and nativeness in speech perception, neural control of speech, and recent advances in speech synthesis.

In contrast to previous ICPHS meetings, the 2015 edition allotted just ten minutes, rather than the usual fifteen, for each oral presentation. This format poses particular challenges to presenting researchers, who must distil their research into its essence, a task which was generally met superbly by presenters. While subject to the same challenges for my own presentation, as an audience member for the rest of the conference, I particularly appreciated this format, it being immensely easier to maintain focus during such a

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brief period and thus to process and retain the key points made during each presentation.

Another change for ICPhS 2015 was the addition of dedicated ‘Discussant Sessions’, replacing the ‘Special Sessions’ of previous Congresses. During these sessions, relevant experts outlined the topic (those of the sessions I attended being ‘Sociophonetics’ and ‘Sound change and speech evolution’) and key issues involved, and this introduction was followed by the presentation of a selection of papers chosen to explore and provoke discussion around these themes. These sessions proved highly engaging, and elicited much fruitful discussion regarding contemporary methods of analysis and theoretical approaches.

On the fourth day of the Congress I presented my paper, *A acoustic phonetic properties of mid vowels in New Caledonian French*, as part of the session ‘Phonetics-Phonology Interface III’. Working on a language present but little studied within our region, ICPhS was a wonderful opportunity for me to present my research (and gain valuable feedback) within Europe, where French phonetics and phonology are much more common topics of research. I also relished the opportunity to engage with contemporary research being undertaken in this area within Europe and in Canada.

A highlight of ICPhS 2015 was the conference party and ceilidh, held on the fourth night of the Congress in the indoor courtyard of Glasgow’s Merchant Square. Dinner from one of the venue’s many restaurants was followed by energetic (and frankly exhausting!) traditional ceilidh dancing under the soft glow of the fairy lights blanketing the courtyard ceiling. As the night progressed, the ceilidh band was replaced by a DJ, and the dance floor replete with phoneticians young and old cutting loose (... footloose) was truly a sight to behold!

At the closing ceremony of the Congress came the announcement that the next meeting, in four years’ time, will be hosted by ASSTA in Melbourne. Those in attendance learned of the

city’s coffee culture, trams, and AFL madness, and were assured that although the conference will take place during a Melbourne winter, the weather was in fact likely to be quite comparable to what we’d encountered of Glasgow’s summer.

Thank you to ASSTA for their generous support towards attending this wonderful event!



Mona Faris
Western Sydney University

I have attended the 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS) on 10th-14th August 2015, in Glasgow, Scotland, UK. ICPhS is held every four years and is one of the largest and well-recognised conferences on phonetic sciences covering a range of basic and applied research areas including topics on speech perception and production, sociophonetics, language acquisition, and speech technology, just to list a few.

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My conference proceeding titled ‘*The perceptual assimilation of Danish monophthongs and diphthongs by monolingual Australian English speakers*’ was accepted for a poster presentation. I was interested in examining how experience with diphthongs, and therefore vowel dynamics, affects the perception of non-native diphthongs. My poster received a lot of interest and I also given useful suggestions about further analyses that may be conducted to help explain some of the results I obtained.

This conference provided a very stimulating research environment with plenary lectures given by Patrice Beddor, Anne Cutler, Frank Guenther, and Simon King. The conference included discussant sessions with one held on the first and last day of the conference. There were several parallel oral sessions with one or two poster sessions held daily. The welcome reception was held at the Glasgow Science Centre which included many interactive exhibitions and an opportunity to mingle with other researchers in a relaxed environment.

Attending ICPhS provided me with an excellent opportunity to meet and discuss my research with some of the leading phonologists/phoneticians who I cite in my project including Linda Polka, Ocke-Bohn, Nina Grønnum, Juli Cebrian, and Felicity Cox.

In addition to the insightful presentations, another highlight of the conferences was the conference dinner which featured traditional Scottish food and dancing held on the fourth day of the conference. It was fantastic to see academics and professors attempting to learn the Scottish dances.

I am grateful for the Travel Award that I received from ASSTA as it went towards funding my travel to ICPhS. This was my first international conference which I thoroughly enjoyed as I was able to learn more about recent research developments, had the opportunity to talk with other researchers, and the opportunity to present and receive feedback on my own work.

Nhung Nguyen
The MARCS Institute,
Western Sydney University

I received an ASSTA travel award to attend the 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS XVIII) held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow, Scotland. There were a variety of interesting research themes, ranging from theoretical phonetics – such as coronals, voicing patterns, phonetics of Korean and phonetics of Celtic languages – to more applied phonetics such as sociolinguistics and speech perception, imitation, and conversation and listener effects. Research methods were also varied, including studies of both corpus and laboratory data, from recordings to articulography to magnetic resonance imaging scans for speech production and from discrimination, sound categorization, and lexical decision tasks to the visual world eye-tracking paradigm for speech perception. My paper, ‘Affective attitudes towards Asians influence perception of Asian-accented vowels’, was accepted and scheduled to be presented in the oral session ‘Sociophonetics II’ on Day 4 of the conference.

There were four plenary lectures, two discussant sessions, 13 oral sessions, and seven poster sessions. All four plenary lectures touched on current hot issues in phonetics – specifically the topics were the link between production and perception, abstraction and nativeness, computational modelling and neural prosthesis, and speech synthesis. The two discussant sessions provided the audience with more in-depth discussion of certain particular sub-fields, with more theoretical sub-fields being covered in Discussant session 1 (e.g., phonation and voice quality, phonetics-phonology interface and laboratory phonology) and more applied sub-fields in Discussant session 2 (e.g., forensic phonetics and speaker characteristics, phonetic corpora and speech data). A range of topics were presented in the 13 oral sessions as well as the

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seven poster sessions, reflecting the variety of the interesting research themes mentioned earlier.

ICPhS is a prestigious conference and ICPhS presenters are proud to be part of the research community there. As a (Social) Psycholinguistics PhD student with a Phonetics background, being able to deliver a talk at ICPhS was an honour. The study I presented was the exploratory experiment of my PhD project. To my knowledge, it was the first demonstration of the role of affective attitudes towards speaker groups in a speech perception task. Specifically, it investigated the relationship between listeners' attitudes towards Asians and their perception of Vietnamese-accented vowels, using an established scale from the Social Psychology literature adapted for my specific purpose, and a standard vowel categorization task. People were interested in the interaction between listeners' experiences with the speaker group and their attitudes towards the group. They were also interested in the validity of the Social Psychology scale in measuring affective attitudes.

Overall, I had great experiences at ICPhS as I attended interesting talks related to phonetics, met prominent scholars and fellow PhD researchers in the represented fields, and received valuable feedback on my work. I thank ASSTA for the grant of the travel award that helped enable my attendance at ICPhS 2015.

Qandeel Hussain
Macquarie University

Recently I attended the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Glasgow, Scotland (10th-14th August). The International Congress of Phonetic Sciences is one of the leading conferences in phonetics and phonology, organized once every four years. Phoneticians and phonologists from all over the world present their research on diverse languages. The conference was a great

opportunity for networking and collaboration. I met one of the well-known phoneticians, Ian Maddieson, who has contributed extensively on the development of phonetic sciences.

The conference proceedings started with two keynote talks given by Professor Anne Cutler and Professor Pam Beddor. On the first day of the conference, a special session was organized for the presentations on coronals. I presented my paper on the coronal contrasts in Punjabi. I was really happy that I got some quality feedback from people on my research. On the second day, I had a paper with some of my other colleagues from Japan. Then on the third day I attended a satellite workshop on Geminate Consonants across the World and presented a poster.



The conference also organized some social events: wine reception and conference dinner with a Scottish dance performance.

After attending the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, I had the opportunity to visit the Clinical Audiology, Speech and Language (CASL) Research Center, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh. Professor Jim Scobbie showed me around his lab facilities and gave me a demo of his ultrasound machine.

The International Congress of Phonetic Sciences

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was a memorable event for me. I am really grateful to the Australasian Speech Science and Technology Association for providing me funds.

The next International Congress of Phonetic Sciences will be hosted by the Australasian Speech Science and Technology Association.

Olga Maxwell
University of Melbourne

I received financial support from ASSTA to attend the 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC) in Glasgow, Scotland, UK. The Congress was hosted by the four universities belonging to the Scottish Consortium, namely the University of Edinburgh, the University of Glasgow, Queen Margaret University and the University of Strathclyde. Given the Congress takes place once in four years, the programme included a broad range of topics in a number of research areas, such as phonation and voice quality, articulatory phonetics, tone and intonation, phonetics of first language acquisition, sociophonetics, speech perception, speech prosody and many more. Australian universities were very well represented in the congress programme, with 36 papers authored by researchers from Australia.

The Congress commenced with an opening ceremony followed by two plenary lectures given by Patrice Speeter Beddor and Anne Cutler. Patrice Speeter Beddor talked about the relationship between language users' perception and production repertoires. Drawing on the results from two studies, she discussed the link between the user's "perceptual weighting" and productions, and suggested greater elasticity in perception compared to production. Anne Cutler talked about abstraction and nativeness, raising a number of issues in speech perception research.

The lecture was very stimulating and included results from a few studies.

The programme was organised by various themes and contained several parallel oral sessions over the period of five days. It was not easy to decide which sessions to attend as the talks were of very good quality and highly relevant to my research interests. I tried to make the most of it and went to the sessions on speech prosody, intonation, information structure, L2 prosody (production and perception), sociophonetics, dialectology and language acquisition. I learned quite a lot and was able to speak with a number of researchers about my projects.

The programme also included special discussant sessions, a number of poster sessions and satellite meetings. On day one, I attended the discussant session titled "Tone and Intonation", led by Yi Xu who selected the papers for presentation and discussion. I found this session quite memorable. It raised the issues around a) tone-intonation interaction and analysis of tone, b) phonetic gradience and phonological intonational categories, and c) the effect of cognitive load on contextual tonal variations. The audience included several experts in the fields of intonational phonology and lexical tone, which resulted in a good discussion. I also attended the discussant session on sociophonetics on the final day.

On day three, the afternoon was dedicated to seven concurrent satellite meetings. I attended the Workshop on Developing an International Prosodic Alphabet (IPrA) within the Autosegmental-Metrical Framework. The workshop was organised by Sun-Ah Jun, José Hualde and Pilar Prieto. This workshop was envisaged to be the starting point for developing an International Prosodic Alphabet. The organisers presented the rationale behind creating such an alphabet, discussed the complexity of this idea and gave an overview of possible categories. Subsequently, the audience was invited to ask

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questions and comment on any of the aspects presented by the organisers. During the discussion, it was decided that a core group of researchers will be meeting regularly to work further on developing an International Prosodic Alphabet with a view to reconvene at Speech Prosody 2016. In addition, it was proposed to have a number of smaller working group parties, each with a particular interest (intonation in less described languages, L2 intonation, etc.)

I had an opportunity to present two papers at different oral sessions. The first paper “A comparison of the acoustics of nonsense and real word stimuli: Coronal stops in Bengali”, co-authored with Brett Baker, Rikke Bundgaard-Nielsen and Janet Fletcher, was presented on day one of the Congress at the session on coronals. It generated some good questions and suggestions from the audience. I also managed to talk about the findings after the session and received valuable feedback from senior experts in the field.

The second paper “The placement and acoustic realisation of primary and secondary stress in Indian English”, co-authored with Robert Fuchs, was presented on the fourth day of the conference as part of the session on the acoustics of prominence. We received constructive and positive feedback on the paper from several researchers working in the fields of L2 prosody and English language varieties.

Overall, attending the Congress has been a great learning experience. It helped me foster relationship with researchers around the world, learn new approaches to studying prosody and intonation, learn new theoretical advances in a number of fields and reconcile some of my previous knowledge in a broader context. I am looking forward to the 19th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences that is going to take place in Melbourne in 2019.



SST2016: Call for Papers

The Australasian Speech Science and Technology Association is pleased to announce the call for papers for the 16th Australasian International Conference on Speech Science and Technology (SST2016). This conference will mark the 30-year anniversary of the first SST conference held in Canberra in 1986.

- **Location:** Sydney, Australia
- **Dates:** 6-9 December 2016
- **Host Institution:** Western Sydney University

Deadline for special session proposals: 25 Jan 2016

- **Deadline for paper submissions:** 16 May 2016
- **Notification of acceptance:** 01 August 2016
- **Website:** <http://sst2016.westernsydney.edu.au/>

Submissions are invited in all areas of speech science and technology, including:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Acoustic phonetics | • Pedagogical technologies for speech |
| • Applications of speech science and technology | • Second language acquisition (perception/production) |
| • Audiology | • Sociophonetics |
| • Australasian Languages (phonetics/phonology) | • Speaker recognition and classification |
| • Corpus management and speech tools | • Speech engineering and modelling |
| • First language acquisition (perception/production) | • Speech pathology |
| • Forensic phonetics | • Speech perception |
| • Hearing and hearing impairment | • Speech production |

Keynote Speakers:

- Professor Harald Baayen (U. Tübingen)
- Professor Shrikanth (Shri) Narayanan (U. Southern California)
- Associate Professor Leher Singh (National U. Singapore)

We are inviting two categories of submission: 4 page papers (for 20 minute oral presentations – and publication in the proceedings), and 1 page abstracts (for poster presentation only). We also welcome proposals for special sessions. The call for special sessions is available on the conference website.

If you have any questions concerning the submission procedure or if you encounter any problems, please contact sst2016@westernsydney.edu.au.



Call for Papers

Steering Committee

- o Luis J. Rodríguez-Fuentes (chair), UPV/EHU, Spain
- o Eduardo Lleida (co-chair), University of Zaragoza, Spain
- o Jean-Francois Bonastre, University of Avignon, France
- o Niko Brümmer, Agnitio, South Africa
- o Lukáš Burget, BUT, Czech Republic
- o Joseph Campbell, MIT Lincoln Laboratory, USA
- o Jan "Horza" Černocký, BUT, Czech Republic
- o Tomi Kinnunen, University of Eastern Finland, Finland
- o Haizhou Li, Institute for Infocomm Research, Singapore
- o Alvin Martin, NIST, USA
- o Douglas Reynolds, MIT Lincoln Laboratory, USA

Venue and Travel

Odyssey 2016 will be hosted by two Spanish groups: GTTS from the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), and VIVOlab from the University of Zaragoza. The workshop will be held in Bilbao, a medium-size city in the north of Spain. The venue, Bizkaia Aretoa, is located in the heart of the city. The Bilbao airport provides worldwide connectivity, with direct flights from/to Amsterdam, Barcelona, Brussels, Frankfurt, Istanbul, Lisboa, London, Madrid, Munich, Paris, Rome and Zurich.

Topics

- o Speaker and language recognition, verification, identification
- o Speaker and language characterization
- o Features for speaker and language recognition
- o Speaker and language clustering
- o Multispeaker segmentation, detection, and diarization
- o Language, dialect, and accent recognition
- o Robustness in channels and environment
- o System calibration and fusion
- o Speaker recognition with speech recognition
- o Multimodal speaker recognition
- o Speaker recognition in multimedia content
- o Confidence estimation for speaker and language recognition
- o Corpora and tools for system development and evaluation
- o Low-resource (lightly supervised) speaker and language recognition
- o Speaker synthesis and transformation
- o Human and human-assisted recognition of speaker and language
- o Spoofing and tampering attacks: analysis and countermeasures
- o Forensic and investigative speaker recognition
- o Systems and applications

Workshop format & Paper submission

As in previous editions, Odyssey 2016 will consist of **plenary oral and poster sessions**, plus Show & Tell (demo) sessions and panel discussions with industry partners. A **special session on Speaker Recognition in Multimedia Content** will be held, with the collaboration of the ISCA SIG-SLIM. Regular and Show & Tell papers must be uploaded in PDF format to the **Odyssey 2016 Submission System** (guidelines and Word/LaTeX templates are available on the web).

Regular papers

Regular papers must be at most 8 pages long and are expected to include **scientific or methodological novelty**. Each paper will be reviewed by at least three members of the scientific committee. Accepted papers will appear in electronic proceedings, and will be accessible through the ISCA Archive.

Show & Tell papers

For the Show & Tell (demo) sessions, authors must submit short papers (at most, 4 pages long) describing their systems or prototypes. These papers do not have to present scientific or methodological novelty; thus they will not undergo full peer review and will not be included in the proceedings, but will be available for download on the website.

Industry & Forensics track

Companies, R&D labs, government agencies and other interested parties (e.g. forensic experts and labs) are called to participate in two special sessions: forensic/investigative speaker recognition and commercial applications of speaker and language recognition, which will consist of a series of pitch talks followed by a panel discussion, addressing practical issues or unsolved problems that deserve attention.

To participate, an email must be sent to info@odyssey.org within the given deadline, with 'Industry and Forensics track' as Subject, the company profile (in particular, its involvement with speaker/language recognition technology), interests (forensic/commercial) and contact info.

Important dates

Regular paper submissions	January 24, 2016
Show & Tell / Industry & Forensics	February 15, 2016
Notifications	March 15, 2016
Final papers	April 1, 2016

Further information & Contact

<http://www.odyssey2016.org>
info@odyssey2016.org