

FALAS NO LABFON

Sessões de trabalho do Laboratório
de Fonética e Fonologia & Lisbon BabyLab (CLUL)
9 de Outubro, 11:00-12:00, Sala B1

11:00-11:30

Flaviane Fernandes Svartman (Universidade de São Paulo)

Prosodic phrasing in Portuguese: similarities and differences across African and Brazilian varieties

This study aims at analyzing the prosodic phrasing of neutral declarative sentences in subject-verb-object word order (SVO sentences) into intonational phrases (Is) in Brazilian varieties of Portuguese as spoken in Salvador (Bahia) and Florianópolis (Santa Catarina) and in African varieties of Portuguese as spoken in São Tomé (Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe) and Libolo (Angola). The purpose of this study is the investigation of similarities and differences across these varieties regarding the prosodic phrasing. The results showed that (SVO)I is the preferential prosodic phrasing pattern in all Portuguese varieties. Different prosodic phrasing patterns are also found for Brazilian varieties of Portuguese, although with low frequency and considering branchingness and extension of the subject and object. As for African varieties, other prosodic phrasing patterns are only found when spontaneous or semi-spontaneous speech data are considered. These results contribute to the knowledge of a topic that deserves to be more explored for Brazilian and African varieties of Portuguese and to a greater understanding of the general prosodic characteristics of Portuguese and of those that distinguish their different varieties.

11:30-12:00

Jovana Pejovic (FLUL –CLUL, LabFon)

Audiovisual Vowel Processing in 4- and 8-month-old Monolingual and Bilingual Infants: Evidence from a cross-sectional and longitudinal study.

A growing body of research has demonstrated that infants are sensitive to visual attributes of speech (e.g., Kuhl & Meltzoff, 1982; Lewkowicz & Hansen-Tift, 2012). It is under debate whether monolingual vs. bilingual language experience modulates infants' sensitivity to visual speech. In particular, results are mixed whether bilingual infants as early as 4 months of age develop greater sensitivity to a speaker's mouth in comparison to their monolingual peers. Unlike previous studies, the current research controlled the nature and difficulty of the experimental task for the monolingual and bilingual group by selecting the stimuli that are shared between the groups. We tested 4- and 8-month-old Spanish and Basque monolingual and Spanish/Basque bilingual infants in an audiovisual vowel matching task. Crucially, Spanish and Basque share the vowel inventory, hence we tested whether monolingual and bilingual infants exhibit different strategies when exposed to the same task/stimuli. Infants' looking behaviour was recorded with an eye-tracker while presented with audiovisual matching and mismatching condition. The study revealed that monolingual and bilingual infants develop similar audiovisual matching ability, and more importantly, similar sensitivity to a speaker's mouth. In summary, monolingual and bilingual infants develop similar audiovisual strategies if the task and the stimuli are similar across the population.