Workshop ID : 31

Workshop Duration : Workshop - 1 Day

Workshop Title : **Spoken Corpora advances: prosody as the crux of speech segmentation, annotation and multilevel linguistic studies**

Workshop Leader : **Tommaso Raso**, Federal University of Minas Gerais

---

In the past 15 years, spoken corpora compilation and exploration have seen expanding possibilities due to methodological advancements in the field. An aspect that has received increasingly more attention, as well as has reached significant research results, is prosody identified as the core speech segmentation device (Du Bois et al. 2000-2005; Cresti and Moneglia 2005; Izre'el and Rahav 2004; Raso and Mello 2012; Mettouchi et al 2015). Additionally, the improvement of acoustic quality of natural environment recordings and the possibility for text-to-speech alignment have also fostered expanding venues for the development of diverse corpus-based studies on the interface between prosody and different linguistic levels (syntax, information structure, pragmatics) in spontaneous speech (Raso and Mello 2014; Débaisieux and Martin 2010). This has ensured accurate understanding for previously tentatively suggested functional interpretations for prosodic units (Croft 1995; Bybee 2010; Chafe 1994; Halliday 1965; Cooper and Paccia-Cooper 1980; Selkirk 2005; Selting 2000; Szczepek-Reed 2012).

Stemming from the above-mentioned advancements, an important point of interest is the comparability of prosodic cues and their consequences for the identification of speech segmentation across languages. If, on the one hand, prosodically segmented spontaneous speech corpora are a crucial resource for the study of phonetic features responsible for signaling boundaries in speech, on the other hand, specific prosodic studies on boundary features can help the achievement of (semi)automatic speech segmentation (Swerts 1997; Barbosa 2013; Mertens and Simon 2013; Barth-Weingarten 2016).

The relevance of prosody for speech segmentation has also brought about advancements in dedicated spoken corpora annotation (Buhmann et al. 2002, Ostendorf et al. 2002), as reflected in the study of prosodic cues capable of characterizing specific functions, such as information units, illocutions or other pragmatic functions. In pace with the methodology employed for other types of corpora annotation, prosody-based annotation is enriched through inter-rater agreement validation and reliability scores (Oostdijk et al. 2002), which in turn may correlate to cognitive and perceptual principles involved in the decoding of prosodic marks by speakers.

Furthermore, spoken corpora that document spontaneous speech and are a platform for its study through prosodic parameters seem to be a relevant tool in the understanding of general speech organization principles in the languages of the world.

Departing from the afore mentioned issues, this workshop aims at discussing contributions that focus on spoken corpus-based studies as well as spoken corpora compilation and annotation, taking prosody as the defining parameter behind speech organization.

The following topics will be welcome:

- spontaneous speech segmentation;
- prosody and spoken corpora compilation;
- spontaneous speech prosodic studies;
- spoken corpora annotation;
- spoken corpora automatic information extraction;
- corpus-based linguistic studies in interface with prosody;
- crosslinguistic comparisons of prosodic-based units in spoken corpora