

Introduction

TIPS is an interdisciplinary conference on how humans understand speech. Our aim is for researchers from different fields to explore current issues in speech perception together, questioning standard views and procedures, and considering how insights from other disciplines can help solve problems in their own. The unifying focus within which we decided to pursue these lofty aims is temporal integration of different types of sensory information in the perception and understanding of speech. Central questions concern the dynamics of speech perception, especially how the listener combines short-domain and long-domain acoustic cues to a phonemic (or other linguistic) distinction, and the nature of the perceptual "glue" that allows different chunks of acoustic information to hold together as the speech signal is processed. Particular questions we expect to arise include episodic vs. abstract mental representations of speech and language, and, connectedly, how—and perhaps whether—to model the contribution of rich phonetic detail to speech understanding.

TIPS is dedicated to the memory of Peter Jusczyk, who had intended to speak in the session on development. His untimely death last August caused immense sadness within the wide academic community touched by his work. He was an outstanding scientist whose academic contribution was—and continues to be—enormous. He was also an outstanding human being. We are pleased and honoured that his wife, Ann Marie Jusczyk, will be joining us at TIPS. We extend deep sympathy to his family. His loss leaves us all poorer.

Many people and institutions have supported us to make TIPS possible. The intellectual and financial sponsors are acknowledged in a separate section above. We thank members of the scientific committee for reviewing the submitted abstracts for poster papers, and advising on improvements, and the members of the Local Committee in Aix for their hard work on all fronts. We thank a number of individuals for going beyond the call of duty in practical matters: Philippe Blache, Armelle Bonpain, Isabelle Marlien, Cristel Portes, Annie Rinaudo and Bernard Teston in particular.

The scientific merit of TIPS naturally depends entirely on the quality of the papers presented. The focus papers have been circulated amongst the invited speakers before the conference, and the invited discussants' commentaries have been prepared ahead of time, and in many cases included consultation between other speakers, especially but not only in the same session. We thank all the participants for their enthusiasm and hard work. We hope you will find the end result worthwhile.

Noël Nguyen
Sarah Hawkins
John Laver

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Editorial note

Some people asked for abstracts to be citable. In response, all abstracts were reviewed for scientific merit and relevance to the conference, and in addition, reviewers recommended improvements where they judged them helpful. In producing this book, we have tried to achieve a reasonable degree of editorial consistency while remaining true to the authors' original submissions. We thank all the authors who so cheerfully worked with us to help achieve this. Sarah Hawkins also thanks the members of the Phonetics Lab, Cambridge University, for advice, laughter and cups of tea. Special thanks go to her family for letting her work evenings and weekends, and to Rachel Smith for preparing the index and giving other editorial help.