Spoken language in the medical field: linguistic analysis, technological applications and clinical tools

University of Salento, Lecce (February 15th-17th 2023)

The study of the spoken language is ideal in order to get information on the person, on the sociolinguistic system s/he refers to, and thus on his/her linguistic identity, as well on the condition of the physiological system which allows speech production. The analysis of speech offers important information and the development of tools aimed at performing automatically such analysis can have an important impact on health and social services. The increasing number of individuals affected by neurodegenerative diseases, such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease which influence communication skills in different ways, suggests the importance of interdisciplinary studies whose aim is investigating voice and speech.

The Conference is organized with reference to the PRIN 2017 Project "Phonetic analysis of dysarthric speech by speakers of different varieties of Italian to develop clinical tools", and it promotes the discussion among researchers of different scientific disciplines who share their common interest in the interdisciplinary investigation of speech, paying also attention to technology for clinical application. Whether it's about the evaluation of the characteristics of normophasic speech or it regards the staging of a specific disease's development, the analysis of speech, automatic or not, offers crucial information both on a theoretical and applied level. The more interdisciplinary perspective is adopted, the richer the analysis is, taking into consideration core concepts of theoretical linguistics, speech variation as well as the potentially relevant clinical factors and the technological impact.

The aim of the conference is thus to provide an interdisciplinary context that fosters communication among scholars from different fields who are interested in the study of oral language.

We invite contributions on normophasic and pathological speech related to:

- Segmental and prosodic characteristics
- Phonetic and phonological features concerning dialects or regional varieties of national languages
- Characteristics of dialogical interaction and pathology specificity
- Aspects related to sociophonetic variation according to genre, age, social class or "community of practice" and impact on pathological and non-pathological speech
- Speech accuracy and intelligibility in neurodegenerative diseases, such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease, and in dysarthria
- Pathology progression and oral language characteristics in neurodegenerative/dementia diseases
- Collection and use of corpora and databases for the acoustic and articulatory analysis of non-pathological and pathological speech
- Speech technologies and linguistic analysis
- Speech technologies, early diagnosis and staging of neurodegenerative diseases and dysarthria

In line with the tradition of the AISV conferences, proposals of studies "on a free topic" concerning any aspect of voice and speech research, will also be welcomed.

How to submit your abstract
Authors are invited to submit an abstract by <u>October 17th 2022</u>. Abstracts should be written in English or Italian, and should be restricted to 1000-1500 words, excluding references. The abstract, including graphs and references, should not exceed the two pages in A4 format.

Abstracts should be anonymous and submitted in *.pdf format through EasyChair, following the procedure that will be set up and will be described in the Conferences website (available starting from September 20th, 2022).

Abstracts will be selected (double blind peer review) for oral or poster presentation, however authors are invited to indicate whether they prefer to present their work in an oral or poster session (the final decision will be made by the organizing committee).

Authors that wish to publish their work in AISV volume that will include a selection of paper presented during the Conference Proceedings (single blind peer review) should submit their paper by May 15th, 2023. Note that being accepted to present during the conference does not guarantee the publication of the work. Further information will be provided at a later stage.

Presentations
Oral presentations will be allotted 15-20 minutes each, which will be followed by a short Q&A session. PowerPoint (.ppt; .pptx) and Adobe PDF (.pdf) are the accepted presentation formats.

Printed posters must be maximum A0 in size (841mm x 1,189mm) and portrait in orientation. The poster session will be preceded by a poster slam where presenters have 1 minute to advertise their poster.

The conference official languages are English and Italian. Oral and poster presentations can be held in Italian, but must be accompanied by a .ppt/.pptx presentation or a poster in English, so as to ensure as much interaction as possible between participants coming from different countries and speaking different languages.

Important dates
Abstract submission: October 17th 2022
Notification of acceptance: December 10th 2022
Conference dates: February 15th-17th 2023
Full paper submission for publication: May 15th 2023

Registration fee (including fee forAISV membership)
- full (including post-doc and PhD students with a scholarship): 110 €
- reduced (graduate and undergraduate students and PhD students with no scholarship): 60 €

Online registration opens on December 1st, 2022 and closes on January 20th, 2023. After this date, registration will only be possible on site with an extra 25-euro fee.

It will also possible to register to ISCA, by paying 45 € (full rate) or 16 € (reduced rate).

Franco Ferrero Award
We encourage young researchers to apply for the Franco Ferrero Award as for two categories:
- Linguistics, Phonetics and Phonology
- Speech technologies

Authors will notify their intention to apply for the FFA at the time of full paper submission (15th May 2023). In case of papers with multiple authors, the applicant must be the first author. A letter from the tutor or the senior author is also requested, attesting the applicant's contribution and responsibility for the intellectual work done in the paper.

We strongly encourage young researchers with a non-permanent position who are the unique or first author of the work to consider the possibility to apply when submitting the paper.

For more details, please visit the following website: https://www.aisv.it/it/premio-ferrero.html

Organising Committee:

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Maria Luisa Fiorella (Università di Bari)
Marco Siniscalchi (Università di Enna-Kore)
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Sonia d'Apolito (Università del Salento)
Anna Chiara Pagliaro (Università del Salento)
Francesco Sigona (Università del Salento)

Contacts

If you have any questions, please use the following email address to contact the Organising Committee: lecce2023@unisalento.it

Further information at https://www.aisv.it/it/convegni.html