A bid to host Speech Prosody 2022

Presented by:  
**Laboratoire Parole et Langage**  
CNRS, Aix-Marseille University  
Aix-en-Provence, France

Contact person:  
James S. German  
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City, Country:  
Aix-en-Provence, France

Conference Dates:  
**Option 1:**  
Main Conference: 17 – 20 May 2022  
Workshops: Monday 16 May or Saturday 21 May

**Option 2:**  
Main Conference: 31 May – 3 June 2022  
Workshops: Monday 30 May or Saturday 4 June

General Chair:  
James S. German, Associate Professor  
Laboratoire Parole et Langage, Aix-Marseille University, CNRS  
Experience organizing similar events:  
James was a member of the organizing committee for the Aix Summer School on Prosody in 2016 and co-ordinated the programme calendar for that event. He also co-organized a special session at Speech Prosody 2016 on sentence-final particles and intonation.

Co-chair:  
Sophie Herment, Professor  
Laboratoire Parole et Langage, Aix-Marseille University, CNRS  
Experience organizing similar events:  
Sophie was part of the organizing committee of the first Speech Prosody conference in 2002 in Aix-en-Provence. Since then she has organized or taken part in the organization of more than 20 scientific events of smaller size at several French universities. In terms of large events (more than 200 participants), she was part of the organizing committee of the Aix Summer School on Prosody, Aix-en-Provence 2016, of the 32nd edition of the Journées d’Etudes sur la Parole (JEP), Aix-en-Provence 2018 and of the 59th SAES congress (400 participants), Aix-en-Provence 2019.
Proposed theme:

“Revisiting Speech Prosody”

2022 will mark the 20th anniversary of the first Speech Prosody, which was held in Aix-en-Provence. To honour this special occasion (as well as the return of the conference to Aix-en-Provence should our bid be accepted), we propose a theme that reconnects “newer” approaches with the “older” research programmes and traditions that they grew out of. The aim is not to hold a retrospective, but to facilitate cross-fertilization and synergism among researchers whose collective experience now spans more than a generation.

Different traditions in the study of prosody make use of different tools, whether they be measurements (acoustic, articulatory, perceptual, cognitive-behavioural, neural, etc.), methodologies (experimental, computational, etc.), or analytical tools (statistics, machine learning, etc.). The last 20 years have seen rapid developments in terms of the ways that we can obtain and analyse different types of parameters, as well as in terms of the presence of stronger cross-disciplinary linkages. Younger researchers in particular are actively tapping into these new possibilities in interesting and dynamic ways. At the same time, these younger researchers may be one or two generations removed from the observations, insights, and perspectives that shaped the traditions they are working in. Our hope is to create a platform that reconnects the scientific visions of 20 years ago or more with the rapidly expanding set of research tools available today.

In concrete terms, we propose to invite plenary speakers who represent diverse career stages ranging from, on the one hand, highly experienced “senior” researchers who helped to shape major traditions at a time when the set of available tools was more limited, to “junior” researchers who are actively exploring new ways of measuring, analysing, and modelling prosodic data on the other. We also propose to encourage session themes that specifically connect newer methods to the objectives and insights laid out by long-standing research traditions, including, for example, a session dedicated to studies that replicate classical findings using newly available approaches, or a session dedicated to methods that have been developed within the last decade.

Venue:

We propose as the main venue for the conference the Schuman Campus of the Aix-Marseille University (29 avenue Schuman, Aix-en-Provence), which is situated just a 15-minute walk from the city centre of Aix-en-Provence. This campus has recently finished undergoing significant renovations and includes a wide selection of amphitheatres, lecture halls, conference rooms, dining options, as well as welcoming outdoor spaces.

For the plenary hall, we propose the Portalis Amphitheatre, which has a maximum seating capacity of 800. Situated next to the Faculty of Law near the centre of campus, the Portalis Amphitheatre is recognized for its architectural heritage and appealing inner decor. For special sessions and workshops, there are a wide range of options for smaller halls (if needed) with capacities of 50, 120, 200, 300, and up to 400.

Aix-en-Provence is generally blessed with excellent weather during the month of May. For this reason, we propose to hold the poster sessions on a spacious outdoor patio adjacent to the plenary hall. In case of intemperate weather, we will also reserve an alternative indoor space, which can readily accommodate 40-50 posters plus audience.

All venues on the university campus are available free of charge for events organized by university faculty. This substantial benefit will allow us to keep registration fees low.
Social Programme:

For the site of the dinner banquet, we propose the Fondation Vasarely. This museum, which integrates art and architecture in the “architectonique” tradition, provides event space in conjunction with private museum tours, and in coordination with private catering services.

We propose to hold the welcome reception in an open-air space just a few steps from the plenary hall, which will include a cultural performance from a local dance or music group.

We also plan to offer organised outings to local natural and/or cultural sites, for example, a tour by boat of the “calanques” (a series of visually stunning sea cliffs and inlets), or a visit to the MUCEM centre for architecture and heritage in nearby Marseille.

Registration Fees:

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<tr>
<td>Early-bird full</td>
<td>340 €</td>
<td>400 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early-bird student</td>
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The above fees are merely provisional. Because the main venue will be available free of charge (including plenary hall, poster session space, special session/workshop rooms, and welcome reception), we expect to be able to keep fees relatively low. We will approach our many local and international partners who regularly provide financial assistance for similar events. These include, among others, the Association Francophone de la Communication Parlée, the Institute for Language, Communication, and the Brain, as well as the local (Pays d'Aix), departmental (Bouches-du-Rhône), and regional (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur) governing councils.

We also propose to introduce a fee schedule that takes into account the economic situation of attendees' home countries, similar to what has recently been put into place by the Association for Laboratory Phonology for its membership fees.

Optional Remote Participation

In order to be able to welcome all participants, including those whose home countries are affected by COVID-19 or who may have difficulty traveling for other reasons, we plan to put in place a system that will allow for remote participation at a reduced cost.
Transportation:

Aix-en-Provence is served by the Marseille Provence Airport (MRS), which is situated 27 km to the southwest of Aix-en-Provence. Travel between the airport and Aix-en-Provence is provided by an express bus line which departs every 30 minutes (16€ round trip). The bus terminus in Aix is a 5-minute walk from both the city centre and the conference venue.

The city can also be reached by high-speed train (TGV). The Aix-en-Provence TGV train station is 15 km to the southwest of the city and is serviced by an express bus line which leaves every 15-30 minutes depending on time of day (9.60€ round trip). The travel time between the TGV station and Paris is approximately three hours.

The city of Aix-en-Provence itself is serviced by a dense network of regular bus lines connecting all parts of the city. The regular fare for a one-way trip is 1.20€.

Accommodation:

Aix-en-Provence, which has a population of approximately 150,000 residents, is a relatively concentrated, and therefore highly walkable city. As a popular tourist destination, it offers a wide range of accommodation options, including over 3,000 hotel rooms within the city limits, as well as a large number of low-cost homestay options (e.g., Airbnb lists over 300 in the city centre alone). The typical cost per night for a two-star or three-star hotel in or immediately adjacent to the city centre ranges from 75-120€, while the cost for homestays is typically much lower with advanced booking. As the month of May is still outside of the high tourist season, conference guests will have no problem finding affordable accommodations.

Several dormitory-style residences are also located near the Schuman campus, which the University offers to conference guests at very favourable rates (approximately 29€/night). A fixed number of rooms in these residences will be pre-booked and made available on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to students.

Visiting the region:

Aix-en-Provence is often referred to as the city of a thousand fountains and is known for its rich architectural heritage and abundance of museums. It is the birthplace of Paul Cézanne, whose life and work can be explored at the Atelier Cézanne, while Monet, Picasso, and van Gogh also spent time there. Other notable museums include the Musée Granet, the Hôtel de Caumont, and the Vasarely Foundation. Aix is also home to a rich tradition of music and dance, which reaches its peak annually during the Festival International d’Art Lyrique d’Aix-en-Provence, while the Grand Théâtre de Provence and the Pavillon Noir host performances of music, theatre, and dance all year long. Finally, bustling outdoor markets provide an opportunity to explore the flavours of Provence before taking a stroll through the city’s charming streets and winding alleyways.

Aix-en-Provence is uniquely situated at the intersection of natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. It is less than one hour by car, bus, or train from both the Mediterranean coast and the French Alps and is only 30-minute trip from the Massif of the Luberon (think Peter Mayle). Nearby natural parks include the Calanques National Park (seaside cliffs and inlets), the Cévennes National Park (rugged plateaux and canyons), the Camargue Natural Park (biodiverse wetlands and plains), and the Ecrins National Park (pristine alpine mountains).

The surrounding region abounds with historic sites and towns that range from Greek to pre-Roman Celtic to Roman to medieval. The city centre of Marseille, which was founded by the Greeks around 600 BCE and is the second largest city in France, can be reached in approximately 45 minutes. Other noteworthy nearby sites include the Roman cities of Arles (1 hour), Nimes (1.5 hours), and Avignon (1 hour).

If the French Riviera is more your speed, Nice is just two hours away, with St. Tropez, Cannes, and Antibes lying in between.
Local Organizing Committee:

Aix-en-Provence (scientific)
Roxane Bertrand, Chargée de Recherche, Laboratoire Parole et Langage
Mariapaola D’Imperio, Professor, Laboratoire Parole et Langage & Rutgers University
Daniel Hirst, Director of Research Emeritus, Laboratoire Parole et Langage
Amandine Michelas, Chargée de Recherche, Laboratoire Parole et Langage
Caterina Petrone, Chargée de Recherche, Laboratoire Parole et Langage
Cristel Portes, Associate Professor, Laboratoire Parole et Langage
Anne Tortel, Associate Professor, Laboratoire Parole et Langage
Pauline Welby, Chargée de Recherche, Laboratoire Parole et Langage

Aix-en-Provence (administrative)
Stephanie Desous, General Secretary of the Laboratoire Parole et Langage
Claudia Pichon-Starke, Engineer (documentation, communication), Laboratoire Parole et Langage

Aix-en-Provence (student support)
Axel Barrault, PhD candidate, Laboratoire Parole et Langage
Julia Bongiorno, PhD candidate, Laboratoire Parole et Langage
Aleksandra Chikulaeva, PhD candidate, Laboratoire Parole et Langage
Emilie Marty, PhD Candidate, Laboratoire Parole et Langage
Airelle Théveniaut, PhD candidate, Laboratoire Parole et Langage
(Note: In addition to the above students who are actively working on prosody, the Laboratoire Parole et Langage has a number of other active PhD candidates who will happily lend their time and support when the time comes.)

France-wide (scientific)
Corine Astésano, Associate Professor, U. Toulouse Jean Jaurès
Véronique Aubergé, Laboratoire d’Informatique de Grenoble, CNRS, U. Grenoble Alpes
Elisabeth Delais-Roussarie, Laboratoire de Linguistique de Nantes, CNRS, U. de Nantes
Cécile Fougeron, Director of Research, Laboratoire Phonétique et Phonologie, CNRS, U. Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3
Anne Lacheret-Dujour, Professor, U. de Paris Nanterre
Hélène Loevenbruck, Chargée de Recherche, Laboratoire de Psychologie et de NeuroCognition, CNRS, U. de Grenoble
Philippe Martin, Emeritus Professor, Laboratoire de Linguistique Formelle CNRS, U. Paris Diderot
Elisa Sneed German, Associate Professor, U. Paul Valéry Montpellier
Hiyon Yoo, Associate Professor, Laboratoire de Linguistique Formelle, CNRS, U. Paris Diderot