

# **The 4th European and 7<sup>th</sup> Nordic Symposium on Multimodal Communication**

## University of Copenhagen

29-30 September 2016

### **Description**

The 4th European and 7<sup>th</sup> Nordic Symposium on Multimodal Communication aims to provide a multidisciplinary forum for researchers from different disciplines who study multimodality in human communication as well as in human-computer interaction. The multimodal communication symposium is organised by the Centre for Language Technology (CST), Department of Nordic Research, Faculty of Humanities, University of Copenhagen. At CST we have a strong group in the research area of multimodal communication, with a strong record of publications in this field. Bringing a European Symposium on Multimodal Communication to the University of Copenhagen is an outstanding opportunity to add more international visibility to this research.

The symposium follows up on a tradition established by the Swedish Symposia on Multimodal Communication held from 1997 till 2000, and continued by the Nordic Symposia on Multimodal Communication held from 2003 to 2012. Since 2013 the symposium has acquired a broader European dimension, with editions held in Malta, Estonia and Ireland. In 2016 we would like the symposium to return to University of Copenhagen.

Multimodal communication as a research area is growing rapidly. There is indeed an increased interest in embodied and situated communication – how humans interact with each other using different modalities, as well as how technological artifacts affect communicative activities. Work places as well as school environments, health care and other services increasingly involve complex multimodal communication. The development in innovative computer interfaces, mobile media and robotics makes new multimodal technical solutions to communicative challenges possible while at the same time creating new challenges for communication research.

As in the preceding editions, we aim to present a broad view of the field by accepting papers on a wide range of topics. This year, however, a special track will be dedicated to studies of cross-linguistic comparisons.

### **Topics**

Topics addressed in the symposium cover all aspects of multimodal communication, including but not limited to:

- Speech, gestures and signs in human communication
- Intercultural aspects of multimodal behaviour
- Multimodality aspects of language acquisition (both L1 and L2)

- Multimodal human computer interaction and conversational agents
- Multimodal systems for sign language users
- Multimodal health communication
- Multimodal communication, communication disorders and communication support (AAC)
- Multimodal dialogue systems
- Multimodal corpora
- Sign language corpora
- Annotation schemes and tools for multimodal corpora
- Automatic recognition and interpretation of different modalities and their interaction
- Machine-learning techniques applied to multimodal data
- Evaluation methods for multimodal systems

### **Invited speakers**

The plenary talk will be delivered by Prof Adam Kendon, from the University College of London.

### **Important dates**

Deadline for abstract submissions: 6 June

Notification of acceptance: 4 July

Revised abstract: 5 September

Symposium dates: 29-30 September

### **Submissions**

Authors are invited to submit anonymous abstracts of 2 pages in PDF format. Further details on how to submit the abstract will be communicated later on.

### **Documentation and dissemination**

A booklet of abstracts will be published online and distributed at the conference. A post-symposium peer-reviewed publication of selected long papers will be considered. These papers will undergo a new round of reviewing.

### **Organising committee**

Patrizia Paggio (Universities of Copenhagen and Malta)

Costanza Navarretta (University of Copenhagen)

Jens Allwood and Elisabeth Ahlsén (University of Gothenburg)

Kristiina Jokinen (Universities of Helsinki and Tartu)

### **Provisional programme committee**

Elisabeth Ahlsén, University of Gothenburg

Jens Allwood, University of Gothenburg

Kirsten Bergmann, University of Bielefeld

Nick Campbell, Trinity College Dublin

Loredana Cerrato, Trinity College Dublin

Alan Cienki, VU University, Amsterdam and Moscow State Linguistic University

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Jens Edlund, KTH Stockholm  
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Dirk Heylen, University of Twente  
Kristiina Jokinen, University of Tartu  
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Stefan Kopp, University of Bielefeld  
Costanza Navarretta, University of Copenhagen  
Patrizia Paggio, University of Copenhagen  
Silvi Tenjes, University of Tartu