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Lisa Roberts

Teaching Fellow

Profile

Biography

Lisa Roberts is a phonetician with a particular interest in socio-phonetics and forensic phonetics. She was appointed Teaching Fellow in Phonetics and Phonology in January 2012.

Career

- University of St. Andrews
MA (Hons) Modern Languages (Two languages) with Linguistics (2002-2006)
- University of York
MSc Forensic Speech Science (2007-2008)
- University of York
PhD Linguistics (2008-)

Research

Overview

My research interests lie in phonetics and phonology, with special reference to their application in forensic speech science. My research interests also include sociolinguistics, specifically language variation and change and socio-phonetics.

Current projects

- Vocal responses of individuals in distress
This project explores acoustic and perceptual cues of distress in two populations: real-life victims from genuine forensic situations, i.e. where they endure severe physical/emotional stress, and actors who are portraying distress based on comparable scenarios. It investigates not only vocal cues of distress (with

specific regards to the limits of the individual's vocal performance), but also whether there are phonetic and acoustic features associated with real responses of distress that can be used to distinguish them from acted ones.

- Levelling and diffusion in the North East of England

This project refines the gravity model of diffusion through investigation of regional phonological levelling and diffusion of innovatory forms in large urban centres and their satellite or dormitory towns throughout the North East of England. Speakers' production patterns are related to their orientations to and contact with larger centres of gravity and their perceptions of the regional and social distribution of socio-indexical forms (with Carmen Llamas (principal investigator) and Peter French).

Research group(s)

- [Forensic speech science](#)
- [Language variation and change](#)
- [Phonetics and phonology](#)

Grants

- University of York Research Priming Fund 'Levelling and diffusion in the North-East of England: a geographical survey', with Peter French (York/JP French Associates) and Carmen Llamas (York).

Collaborators

- [Carmen Llamas](#)
- [Peter French](#)

Publications

Full publications list

- Roberts, L. (2011). [Acoustic effects of authentic and acted distress on fundamental frequency and vowel quality](#). *Proceedings of the 17th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, Hong Kong, August, pp. 1694-1697.
- Llamas, C., Watt, D., French, P., and Roberts, L. (2011). [Effects of the Scottish Vowel Length Rule on Tyneside English](#). *Proceedings of the 17th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, Hong Kong, August, pp. 1282-1285.

- Roberts, L., Turek, M., and Lee, T. (eds). (2011). [York Papers in Linguistics](#). Series 2, vol 11.
- Roberts, L. (2010). [Real and acted responses of distress: an auditory and acoustic analysis of extreme stress and emotion](#). In Antonis Botinis (Ed.) *Exling 2010: Proceedings of the ISCA Tutorial and Research Workshop on Experimental Linguistics*. Athens, Greece: ISCA and the University of Athens, 149-152.
- Roberts, L. & French, J.P. (2010). [How context affects perception: judging distress and linguistic content in forensic audio recordings](#). In Antonis Botinis (Ed.) *Exling 2010: Proceedings of the ISCA Tutorial and Research Workshop on Experimental Linguistics*. Athens, Greece: ISCA and the University of Athens, 153-156.

Teaching

Undergraduate

- [Introduction to phonetics and phonology \(L09C\)](#)
- [Intermediate phonetics and phonology \(L09I\)](#)
- [The prosody of English \(E/L17H\)](#)

Postgraduate

- The prosody of English

External activities

Memberships

- International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics (IAFPA)
Member
- British Association of Academic Phoneticians (BAAP)
Member
- International Speech Communication Association (ISCA)
Member

Invited talks and conferences

For a full list of conference papers, see [Lisa's personal website](#).

- 17th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPHSXVII),
Acoustic effects of authentic and acted distress on

fundamental frequency and vowel quality. August 2011, Hong Kong

- International Association for Forensic Phonetics And Acoustics (IAFPA)
Acoustic characteristics of distress speech in real victims and trained actors. July 2011, Vienna, Austria
- Experimental Linguistics (ExLing 2010)
How context affects perception: judging distress and linguistic content in forensic audio recordings. ISCA (International Speech Communication Association) workshop, August 2010, Athens, Greece (with Peter French)
- São Paulo School of Advanced Studies in Speech Dynamics (SPASSD)
Authentic and Acted responses to physical and emotion distress. Dinafon (Dinâmica Fônica) workshop, June 2010, São Paulo, Brazil
- 4th Northern Englishes Workshop (NEW4)
Phonological and perceptual isoglosses between the Tyne and the Wear. April 2011, Sheffield, UK (with Carmen Llamas and Peter French)
- British Association of Academic Phoneticians Colloquium (BAAP 2010)
Phonetic Cues of Psychologically Stressed Individuals in Forensic Contexts. March 2010, London, UK.
- International Association for Forensic Phonetics And Acoustics (IAFPA)
Phonetics Characteristics of Real and Simulated Responses to Violent Attacks. August 2009, Cambridge, UK