

## SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Faculty of Engineering

Website: <http://www.ece.nus.edu.sg>

**Area: Signal Analysis & Machine Intelligence**

**Host: Prof Li Haizhou**

**Co-organized by**

- *Chinese and Oriental Information Processing Society, Singapore*
- *IEEE Singapore Systems, Man and Cybernetics Chapter, Singapore*
- *International Speech Communication Association, Distinguished Lectures*

### Human Language Technology Seminar

<b>TOPIC</b>	:	<b>An Introduction to Speech Prosody. Its Forms and functions.</b>
<b>SPEAKER</b>	:	<b>Professor Daniel Hirst, Emeritus Research Director, CNRS in Aix-en-Provence</b>
<b>DATE</b>	:	<b>20 November 2018, Tuesday</b>
<b>TIME</b>	:	<b>10.30am to 11.30am</b>
<b>VENUE</b>	:	<b>E4-04-06–E-CUBE 2, Engineering Block E4, Faculty of Engineering, NUS</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>		
<p>Speech is not only made up of words. The way we say something is often just as important as what we say. Speech prosody is the study of the way things are said.</p> <p>In this presentation I try to illustrate how we can study the forms and the functions which are described in this exciting and fast developing area of speech science.</p> <p>Modern technology allows us to display and analyse the prosodic form of an utterance - the length, pitch and loudness of individual speech sounds.</p> <p>Today much of this can be carried out automatically or semi-automatically using software which is freely available and can be run on lap-top computers.</p> <p>A more systematic study of the prosody of different languages will lead to a better knowledge of the ways in which these languages make use of prosodic forms.</p> <p>This, in turn, will no doubt bring us closer to understanding the still quite elusive ways in which these prosodic forms function in different languages and how they contribute to our understanding of an utterance.</p>		

## BIOGRAPHY



Daniel Hirst is a British linguist and phonetician, who lives and works in the South of France. He has been working in the field of speech prosody and phonology for nearly fifty years. After a PhD and a Habilitation thesis, both on intonation and prosody, he became a researcher at the LPL speech and language research laboratory for the CNRS (French National Scientific Research Centre) and Aix-Marseille University in Aix en Provence until 2016. From 2012 to 2015 he was also Lecture Professor at Tongji University, Shanghai, China. He is currently Emeritus Research Director for the CNRS in Aix-en-Provence.

He has published numerous articles in several major journals and has contributed chapters to several international volumes and was responsible in 1998 for the edition of a major study of the intonation of languages of the world.

He has also developed software for the automatic analysis of speech melody and rhythm, in particular Momel, Intsint and ProZed, which have all been implemented as plugins for the Praat speech analysis software and are all freely available.

In 2002 he organised the first International Conference on Speech Prosody, in Aix en Provence, France. Since then Speech Prosody has become a regular international conference, held every two years (Japan 2004, Germany 2006, Brazil 2008, USA 2010, China 2012, Ireland 2014, USA 2016, Poland 2018).

He is also the chief editor of a collection of books published by Springer, entitled Prosody, Phonology and Phonetics, which publishes monographs and collections of papers on the subject of Speech Prosody.

In 2013 he was elected fellow of ISCA and in 2014 member of the Permanent Council for Organisation of ICPHS. This year he was elected ISCA distinguished lecturer for 2018-2019.

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