



Philosophische Fakultät



CCLS/SFB 1252: Martine Grice & Simon Wehrle (University of Cologne)

Prosody and Interaction in Autism Spectrum Disorder

Monday, 28 November 2022, 2:00 p.m., Zoom

This talk will discuss how adults diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) use prosodic and interactional devices to communicate. The studies reported on include perception and production in isolated sentences, monologues and more interactive dyadic tasks, the latter with a special focus on conversational behaviours such as turn transitions and feedback signals (backchannels). The vast majority of previous studies on prosody and communication in ASD is based on the speech of autistic children or adolescents, usually elicited either as monologues or in dialogues with non-autistic adults. Conflicting reports in the literature are likely to be related to differing developmental trajectories and a failure to appropriately account for individual-specific behaviour. Moreover, very little is known not only about the behaviour of autistic adults (as opposed to children), but also about how autistic adults communicate with each other (as opposed to with non-autistic adults). We show that in-depth, multi-dimensional analysis is necessary to reveal the variable behaviour of different individuals and dyads on the autism spectrum. Although difficulties in interpersonal communication belong to the defining characteristics of ASD, it is clear that different individuals have their own strengths and weaknesses and also compensate for any potential difficulties in their own way.