



Individual differences in context-dependent speech perception and production

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That the perception and production of speech is highly context-dependent is common knowledge to linguists and speech scientists alike. What is less clear is to what extent context-dependent variation in speech perception and production is uniformly maintained and observed across individuals. In this talk, I offer experimental evidence showing that individuals vary significantly and systematically in their responses to the effects of the lexicon and coarticulation in speech perception and production. In particular, concentrations of “autistic traits” and levels of working memory resources are shown to be significant individual-level factors that mediate context-dependent speech perception and production. Ramifications for sound change will be discussed if time permits.