

The impact of gender identity and social role on fine phonetic detail

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The definition of gender has changed and still is changing, both legally – with the emergence of a third gender category, and societal – with a vivid discussion on gender diversity. Gender conceptualization has changed from a dichotomous and categorical dimension to a multifaceted and fluid concept on a continuous scale. While in some circles of Anglo-Saxon societies people have started to select pronouns which indicate their societal gender, in German, this has been attempted by introducing a gender-neutral form for personal nouns marked typographically and phonetically.

In phonetic research, however, *gender* is mostly considered a two-level factor. In some cases, this binary distinction might be sufficient e.g., to account for the variability found due to physiological differences between the sexes. However, in socio-phonetics, where we understand a speaker to use speech variants as contributing to signalling their identity or creating their personal speech style, a binary distinction is no longer sufficient.

In my talk I will introduce some recent and ongoing production and perception work, looking at gender-specific phonetic variability. Gender identity is estimated by means of socio-psychological scales such as a person's self-rated femininity/masculinity, normative gender role orientation or identification with the group of females/males.