Special Issue

Advances in Understanding the Phenomena and Processing in Audiovisual Speech Perception

Message from the Guest Editor

Audiovisual speech perception is a key topic in multisensory research because speech is a naturally multisensory signal crucial for human communication. Despite decades of research, the apparently simple problem of how the brain combines information from the talking face with the speaking voice is still unsolved. There are huge advances, such as brain imaging findings showing that regions previously considered unisensory are also activated by other sensory modalities, e.g. the auditory cortex is activated by visual speech alone. Computational modeling has established that Bayesian inference accounts for the merging of auditory and visual speech, so that cues are weighted according to their reliability and combined optimally. Recently, individual differences in audiovisual speech perception have raised interest. Modern research methods are used to investigate individuals, in addition to the traditional approach with methods that require averaging across participants. This Special Issue calls for advances in the understanding of perceptual phenomena and the processing of audiovisual speech, using different approaches, from behavioral studies to brain imaging and modeling.

Guest Editor

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