

## Preface

Following the inaugural event held in Dresden in 2015, the Second International Workshop on the History of Speech Communication Research (HSCR 2017) was held in August 2017 in Helsinki, Finland. The workshop was organized as a satellite event of Interspeech 2017 conference held in Stockholm, Sweden. The organizers received valuable assistance from the Special Interest Group (SIG) on *The History of Speech Communication Sciences*, from the *International Speech Communication Association* (ISCA) as well as from the organizers of the Interspeech 2017 conference.

The workshop was organized together with the new *Center for Digital Humanities* (HelDig) at the University of Helsinki. The Center serves as a Finnish research network and infrastructure focusing on solving research problems in humanities and social sciences using novel computational methods, and on studying digitalization as a phenomenon in its own right. Speech communication research is of course one of the prime examples of humanities enterprise relying heavily – and more and more – on state of the art digital methods, ranging from statistical modelling, through advanced signal processing methods to speech technology applications incorporating the latest deep-learning techniques. It was precisely this ongoing and accelerating methodological turn towards technology that acted as a special focus for the workshop: the changing face of speech communication research; from mechanical to digital.

This volume contains several important contributions addressing the evolution of speech sciences, notably experimental tools and methods. It includes studies of Kempelen’s legendary “articulatory synthesizer” and other physical and computational models of speech production, development of the source-filter model of speech production as well as other important methodological advances essential to the field such as spectrography, notations and recording techniques.

The interest in the second installment of the workshop on the History of Speech Communication Research clearly supports the beliefs and hopes of the organizers of the inaugural event in Dresden that historical aspects of our field are of deep importance and should be studied with care and love. We express our strong belief that the Helsinki workshop will inspire many follow-up seminars in history of speech communication research.

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