

## ISCA Distinguished Lecturer Tour (2018)

Final Report

November 2018

Jennifer Cole, Northwestern University

### INDIA, SEPT. 3-12, 2018

My Distinguished Lecture tour in India coincided with the Interspeech conference in Hyderabad, Sept. 2-6. I was able to attend talks and meet many international scholars at the conference, and to continue some of those interactions outside the conference, with researchers at the universities where I gave my lectures.

#### Sept. 3, 2018

##### International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad, India

I visited IIIT-Hyderabad, where my hosts were Professors Dipti Misra and Radhika Mamidi, both in the Machine Translation & NLP Lab, part of the Language Technologies Research Center (LTRC). I met individually with Professors Misra and Mamidi, and then gave a talk titled “**Standing out in speech: Prosodic prominence in speech production and perception**”, to an audience of undergraduate and graduate students from the LTRC. My lecture was followed by a one-hour discussion period during which the students raised questions and offered comments relating their research on MT and NLP for Indian languages to the topic of prosody.

I lectured at the Kowli Research Block on the IIIT campus:



#### September 10, 2018

##### Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai (Bombay)

The primary host for my India visit was Professor Preethi Jyothi of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at IIT-Bombay. Professor Jyothi coordinated with colleagues at IIIT-Hyderabad and IISc-Bangalore to arrange my lecture circuit.

My local hosts at IIT-B were Professor Preethi Jyothi and Professor Preeti Rao (Dept. of Electrical Engineering), who arranged a one-day symposium on *Recent Advances in Speech Prosody Research*, where I gave a two hour-long talks, one on prosody in phonological and phonetic representation titled “**Standing out in speech: Acoustic, structural and informational correlates of prosodic prominence,**” and a second talk on “**Crowd-sourcing prosodic annotation.**” There were also talks by two other prominent prosody researchers, Professor Hansjörg Mixdorff (BHT-Berlin) and Professor Jacques

Koreman (NTNU-Norway). It was a full day of research presentations, including lunch and coffee breaks that included the student and faculty participants in the workshop. Our hosts arranged for the three guest speakers to stay in the on-campus Guest House, which allowed us the opportunity for extended discussions on our research and current trends in the field. This was a wonderful opportunity for prolonged interaction with a small group of researchers working on common problems. The day after the symposium I visited Professor Rao's lab, where I met her PhD student, Kamini Sabu, and learned about their project on the automatic detection of expressiveness in oral reading. We had an extended discussion of possible extensions of their work using the real-time prosody transcription method developed in my lab.

Prosody symposium at IIT-B. Left-to-right: Preethi Jyothi, Jennifer Cole, Preeti Rao, Hansjörg Mixdorff.



**September 12, 2018**

**Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore**

I spent a day at IISc-Bangalore, where my host was Professor A.G. Ramakrishnan of the Department of Electrical Engineering. In the morning I met with students and post-docs from Professor Ramakrishnan's Medical intelligence and Language Engineering Lab. We enjoyed a lively discussion on areas where my research on prosody intersects with their research on ASR for Indian languages and emotion detection in speech. Later in the afternoon, I gave a talk on "**Standing out in speech: Prosodic prominence in speech production and perception.**" My lecture and the following discussion were attended by Professor Ramakrishnan's group, and other IISc scholars from allied fields.

Jennifer Cole and A.G. Ramakrishnan, IISc-Bangalore.



Members of the A.G. Ramakrishnan's MILE Lab with Jennifer Cole and A.G. Ramakrishnan, IISc-Bangalore.



### **Slovakia and the Czech Republic, Oct. 18-25, 2018**

My second ISCA Distinguished Lecture tour was to Eastern Europe, where I gave a talk on “**The linguistic and social functions of prosody**” at three universities. Professor Štefan Beňuš of Constantine the Philosopher University, Department of English and American Studies coordinated this visit, and arranged the schedule with the local hosts in Olomouc and Prague.

#### **Oct. 18-19, 2018**

##### **Constantine the Philosopher University, Nitra, Slovakia**

On the evening of my arrival I met my host, Professor Beňuš, and a PhD student visiting from Helsinki, Heini Kallio, for dinner. We discussed the opportunities for international research interactions in Europe, and their current project on prosody in speech production in Slovak, and the assessment of prosody production by L2 speakers. I gave my talk on the morning of Oct. 19, to a packed lecture hall that included undergraduate and graduate students of phonetics and English. I had lunch with Professor Beňuš and several faculty and graduate students who are interested in prosody and L2 learning. Later in the afternoon, I visited Professor Beňuš’s lab where he recorded me reading aloud a passage of American English for his project comparing prosody production across languages. We also discussed laboratory methods for eliciting speech in interaction.

Štefan Beňuš introducing Jennifer Cole, Constantine the Philosopher University, Nitra



Jennifer Cole's lecture at Constantine the Philosopher University, Nitra



**Oct. 22, 2018**

**Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic**

I next visited Olomouc, where my local hosts were Professors Šárka Šimáčková and Jonaš Podlipsky, of the Department of English and American Studies. I had lunch with Professor Šimáčková and Professor Marketa Janebová on Oct. 21, and gave a lecture the next morning to another packed lecture hall of students and faculty from their department. Following my lecture I had lunch with Professors Janebová and Joseph Emonds, where we discussed developments in the fields of phonology and phonetics in Europe and the United States. Later that afternoon I met Professor Jonaš Podlipsky to discuss research on perceptual adaptation pertaining to his recent work on adaptation and generalization in vowel perception.

Jennifer Cole and Šárka Šimáčková, Palacký University, Olomouc



**Oct. 24, 2018**

**Charles University, Prague**

My lecture tour in Slovakia and the Czech Republic ended with a visit to the Institute of Phonetics in Prague, where my local hosts were Professors Radek Skarnitzl and Jan Volin. On Oct. 23, after a tour of their research facilities at the Institute, I had dinner with Professors Skarnitzl and Volin, Dr. Tomáš Bořil, and Dr. Pavel Šturm, where we discussed ongoing research projects at the Institute and the EU-funded KREAS research project. My lecture took place on Oct. 24, and was followed by an in-depth discussion of the challenges in collecting and analyzing speech corpus for prosody research.

Radek Skarnitzl and Jennifer Cole, Charles University, standing next to a banner for the EU-funded KREAS project.



Radek Skarnitzl introducing Jennifer Cole, Charles University

