ISCA - Special Interest Group (SIG) and Workshop Activities

Topics SIG, Language SIG and Workshop lunch meeting

Nobuaki, Ioana and Prasanna

Tuesday, 22nd Aug 23, 12-13.30 hrs

Interspeech 2022

INTERSPEECH 2023

20th-24th August 2023 - Dublin, Ireland

About SIG Activities

- **ISCA supports SIGs :** Topics or languages
- **Nobuaki :** Languages, Geographical Outreach, Distinguished Lecturer
- **Prasanna :** Topics, Geographical Outreach
- **Ioana :** Workshops
  - ISCA Tutorial and Research Workshops (ITRWs)
  - ISCA-Sponsored Events
  - ISCA-Supported Events
  - ISCA-Supported Challenges
  - Training schools

About SIG Activities

- Structure sub-communities and address specific scientific or language topics
  - 15 Topic SIGs and 6 language SIGs: http://www.isca-speech.org/iscaweb/index.php/sigs
  - SIG pages updated by ISCA administrator
    - Please keep us informed !!
    - Maintain a SIG-website and discussion list
  - Means: workshops, challenges, training schools, discussion lists, special issues
- SIG, workshop committee and workshop organizers
  - ISCA endorsement & workshop applications: promoting, archiving, indexing & referencing, etc
  - Scientific policy, treasures, survey of international scientific committees: long-term prospective/perspective
    https://www.isca-speech.org/iscaweb/index.php/workshops

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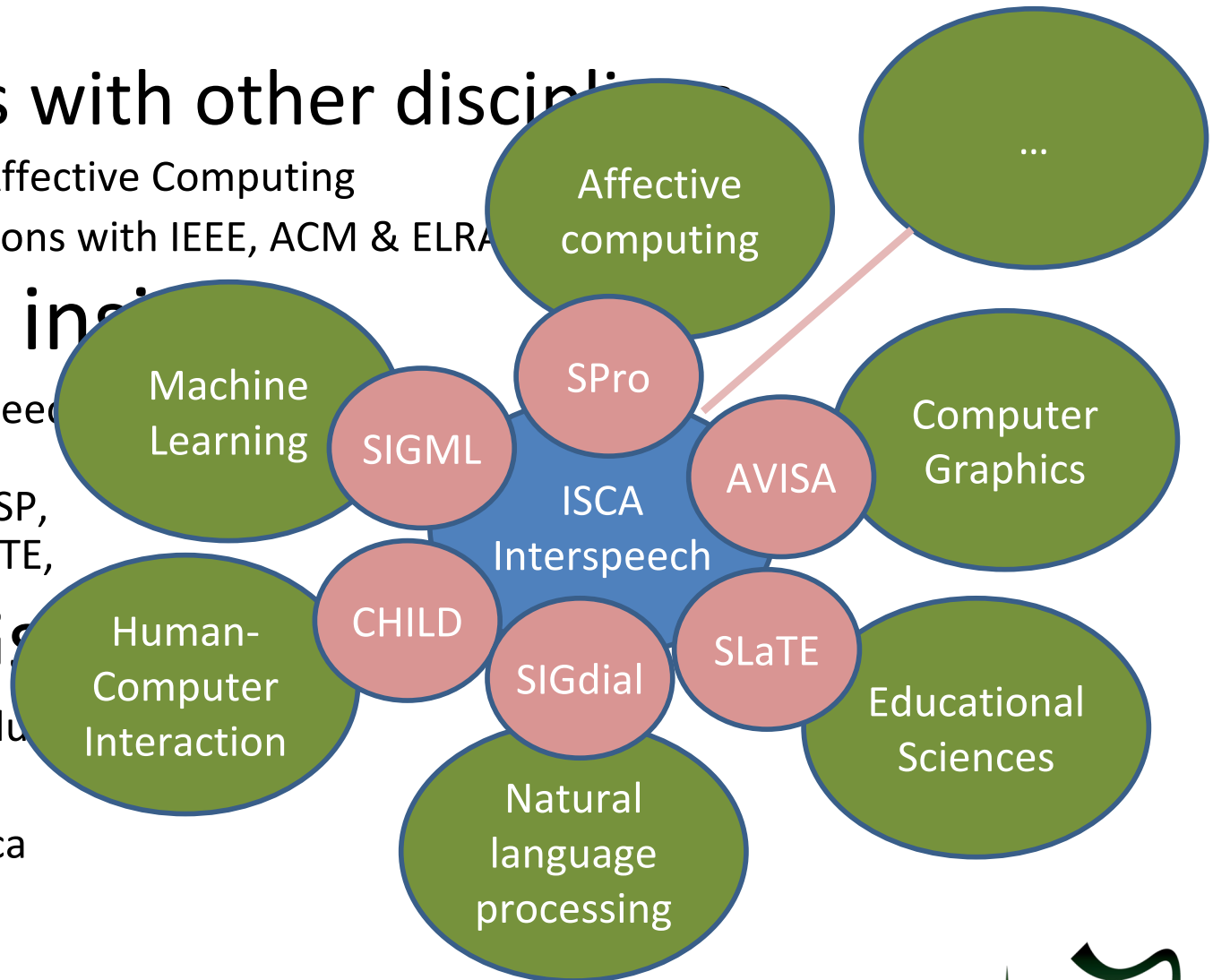# SIG Objectives

- ## Interfaces with other disciplines
  - SPRO with Affective Computing
  - Joint affiliations with IEEE, ACM & ELRA

- ## Bridging institutions
  - HIST with speech technology, SIGML & RoSP, CHILD & SLaTE,

- ## New SIGs
  - Speech production
  - Linguistics?
  - Latin America Languages

Affective computing

…

SPro

Machine Learning

SIGML

ISCA Interspeech

AVISA

Computer Graphics

CHILD

SIGdial

SLaTE

Human-Computer Interaction

Natural language processing

Educational Sciences
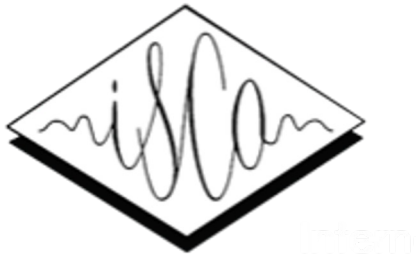
Some Points from ISCA by-laws on SIGs

- At least two elected officers : Chairperson and Secretary
  - Elections held every two years.
  - Must be members of ISCA.
  - Re-election is possible, but consecutive appointments are limited to four successive terms.
- A Liaison Representative responsible for communication with members of SIG and ISCA Board.
- Shall provide annual report to Board
- **At least 25 members in the SIG**
- ISCA Board may choose to close a SIG - failure to adhere to required procedures, inactivity over a period of years, or divergence from interests of Association.

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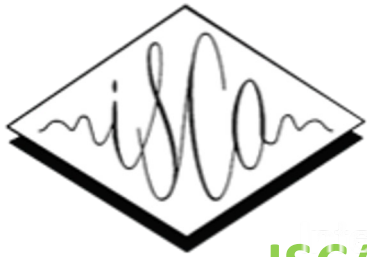
Workshops 2021

ISCA endorsed events in 2021: 19 approved (7 supported, 6 sponsored, 4 challenges, 1 ITRW, 1 training school)

1. Speaker individuality in phonetics and speech sciences: Speech technology and forensic applications
2. 24th International Conference on Text, Speech and Dialogue / TSD 2021
3. IberSPEECH
4. IJCAI : The 1st RobotDial Workshop on Dialogue Models for Human-Robot Interaction
5. ASVspoof 2021 (Automatic Speaker Verification Spoofing And Countermeasures Challenge)
6. First Shared Task on Automatic Minuting (AutoMin'2021)
7. Speech as Personal Identifiable Information
8. 23rd International Conference on Speech and Computer SPECOM-2021
9. Workshop on Machine Learning in Speech and Language Processing 2021
10. The Clarity Workshop on Machine Learning Challenges for Hearing Aids (Clarity-2021)
11. Speech, Music and Mind 2021
12. VoxCeleb Speaker Recognition Challenge and Workshop 2021 (VoxSRC-2021)
13. 1st ISCA Symposium on Security and Privacy in Speech Communication
14. ICMI'21 Workshop on Bridging Social Sciences and AI for Understanding Child Behavior
15. Young Female Researchers in Speech Workshop (YFRSW)
16. 4th International Workshop on the HSCR
17. Speech Recognition Systems for Indian Languages using Deep Learning and Open Source Resources
18. International Symposium on Applied Phonetics 2021
19. ConferencingSpeech 2021: Far-field Multi-Channel Speech Enhancement Challenge for Video Conferencing

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Topic-SIGs

Speech Synthesis - Outcomes

- SSW11 Budapest, Hungary 26-28 August 2021
  - 40 papers accepted
  - Proceedings available in ISCA Archive
  - 107 participants (22 in-person, 85 virtual)

- Elections in 2021:
  - President: Esther Klabbers (ReadSpeaker, USA)
  - Secretary: Zhenhua Ling (University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, China)
  - ISCA Liaison: Gustav Eje Henter (KTH, Sweden)

Speech Synthesis - Plans

- SSW12 in Grenoble, France August 26-28 2023
- Blizzard Challenge in conjunction with SSW12
- SSW13 in 2025 will be announced at this year's SSW
  - Location: Leeuwarden, the Netherlands
  - Organizing committee: Matt Coler (RUG Fryslan campus), Joakim Gustafsson (KTH), Juraj Simko (University of Helsinki)

Audio Visual Speech ([AVISA](#)) - Plans

- **Events:** AVISA officially began in 1998; the founding members of the Auditory-Visual speech processing (AVSP) community have recently retired or are on the verge of doing so. The AVISA executive has plans in place to record brief interviews (via zoom, etc) with these doyens of the community and post them on youtube.
- We have created a Youtube channel for this series: "AVSP Visionaries".
- These interviews will be of interest to AVSP researchers, and the speech research community more broadly. They will also serve to preserve AVSP history. To add uniformity, we have developed: a template style for the interviews, format, some standard(ish) questions (with some personal touches for a specific interviewee) and mapped out a list of who to interview (some have been approved and agreed).
- A test run has been recorded (to ensure that the Zoom format is of sufficient quality) and we have interested parties potentially willing to commit funds to cover production costs.

Audio Visual Speech ([AVISA](#)) - Plans

- Elections: We are planning to hold elections for all of the executive positions of AVISA. The committee suggested we take this slowly; develop a curated candidate list first to build interest
- Social media: We have continued to promote AVISA through the twitter account AV_SP - now ~2000 followers and ~ 8,500 posts!

Under-resourced Languages (SIGUL) - Outcomes

- **Events**
  - **Previous SIGUL workshop**: Biennial SLTU or CCURL Workshops
  - **From 2022**: SLTU / CCURL Workshop → SIGUL Workshop
    - In the even year, SIGUL will be held with LREC (ELRA)
    - In the odd year, SIGUL will be held with INTERSPEECH (ISCA)

  - **SIGUL 2022 with LREC (24-25 June 2022, Marseille, France)**
    - 19 oral & 8 poster presentations, covering 76 different languages
    - One joint session with Workshop on Multiword Expressions (MWE 2022)
    - A shared task on an unsupervised Machine Translation (MT4All project)

  - **SIGUL 2023 with INTERSPEECH (18-20 August 2023, Dublin, Ireland)**
    - 21 oral & 5 poster presentations, covering 82 different languages
    - One special sessions on Celtic languages
    - One joint session with Speech and Language Technology in Education (SLaTE 2023)
    - Three panel discussions

Under-resourced Languages (SIGUL) - Plans

- **Events**
  - **SIGUL 2024 with LREC-COLING (20-25 May 2024, Torino, Italy)**
    - 1-2 days workshop (with 2 keynote speakers)
      - LREC-COLING Workshop proposals deadline: October 13th
      - LREC-COLING Workshop notification of acceptance: November 17th

  - **LT4All Season 2 [Postponed to 2024]**
    - LT4All: Language Technology for All
    - LT4All Season 1:
      - In collaboration with UNESCO
      - 5-6 December 2019 at UNESCO Headquarter, Paris, France
    - LT4All Season 2:
      - Target: 2024

SPeaker & Language Ch. (SpLC): Outcomes

- **EVENTS**
    - **Odyssey 2022: The Speaker and Language Recognition Workshop**
        - June 28th -July 1st 2022, Beijing (China)
        - Local organizers: Tsinghua University, Xinjiang University, Xiamen University, and Duke Kunshan University.
        - COVID-19 situation caused the originally planned physical workshop to be fully online.
        - 77 submissions, 59 accepted (acceptance rate of 76.6%)
        - 3 keynotes, 4 tutorials, 10 sessions, 1 best paper award and 1 Jack Godfrey best student paper award.
        - 131 registered attendees; due to time difference issue, the peak online attendees reached ~90
        - The workshop also featured a **CN-Celeb Speaker Recognition Challenge 2022** (CNSRC 2022) focusing on real-world scenarios, with 132 team registered, 55 teams submissions (26 valid).
- **ELECTIONS**
- **SPECIAL ISSUES**

SPeaker & Language Ch. (SpLC): Plans

- **EVENTS**

  - **Odyssey 2024: The Speaker and Language Recognition Workshop**

    - Location: Québec City, Canada

    - Chairs: Patrick Cardinal (École de Technologie Supérieure) and Najim Dehak (Johns Hopkins University)

    - Time: May/June 2024

  - **ASVspoof 5 challenge and workshop**

    - Phase 1: Data Collection (Attacker) - currently ongoing

    - Phase 2: ASVspoof/SASV evaluation (Defender).

      - beginning quarter of 2023

    - Workshop: Second quarter, 2024

Speech Prosody (SProSIG) - Outcomes

- Events
  - none since last year
- Elections
  - none since last year
- Special issues
  - none

Speech Prosody (SProSIG) - Plans

- Events
  - Tone and Intonation November 2023, Singapore
  - Speech Prosody July 2024, Leiden, The Netherlands

- Lecture Series (inspired by SigSLT)
  - 1-hour lecture+discussion, once per month
  - Aims
    - provide a broad view, especially for young researchers
    - introduce new perspectives and foster debate
    - stimulate collaborations
    - increase the sense of community

Discourse and Dialogue (SIGdial)

- Events
  - SIGDIAL 2022: Edinburgh
  - SIGDIAL 2023: Prague, together with INLG
    - New: Two days of workshops (preceding)
  - SIGDIAL 2024 (planned): Kyoto

- Improved conference rankings (e.g. CORE), Added recent conferences to Web of Science

- Election in 2023: Dilek Hakkani-Tur (President), Milica Gašić (Vice President), Alexandros Papangelis (Secretary) and Casey Kennington (Treasurer)

Speech & Lang. Tech. in Educ. - (SLaTE) - Outcomes

- Events
- Interspeech 2019 Graz; biannual SLaTE workshop
- Interspeech 2021 Brno; no workshop due to Covid pandemic

- SLaTE secretary
  - Keelan Evanini left ETS
  - He was replaced by Anastassia Loukina, who also left ETS
  - She was replaced by Rahul Divekar, also of ETS

- Int. sci. Cie.

- 2 resigned because of retirement

- 2 new members, maybe more

- SLaTE community - 170 members

- Questionnaire was sent; later process the replies

Speech & Lang. Tech. in Educ. - (SLaTE) - Plans

- SLate 2023, as a satellite of Interspeech 2023 Dublin
- Exploring new initiatives, esp. involving younger researchers. Ideas :
- Community - groups, within juniors, and juniors with seniors
- Create groups, e.g. using Slack, Discord, WhatsApp, …
- Webinars, with a place for discussion
- Mentoring event, maybe with round table discussions
- Doctoral consortium - where students can present their [early] PhD research - feedback of seniors
- Panel discussions: students can ask questions
- Workshop[s] for early researchers (undergrad/Masters students): How to: Break into the field? Find research opportunities? Etc.
- Social media, expanding online presence
- interviews, podcasts, e.g. https://anchor.fm/isca-sac

Do you have other ideas? Best practices? … more?

Machine Learning (SIGML) - Outcomes

- Events
  - Interspeech Satellite Workshop
    - Web-page
      https://homepages.inf.ed.ac.uk/htang2/sigml/mlslp2021/
    - Attendees: ~200
  - Virtual Seminar Series
    - Youtube channel
      (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8hDecRvEHzEYMBUYvlNAkw)
    - Web-page
      https://homepages.inf.ed.ac.uk/htang2/sigml/seminar/index.html

- Elections
  - No elections in 2021

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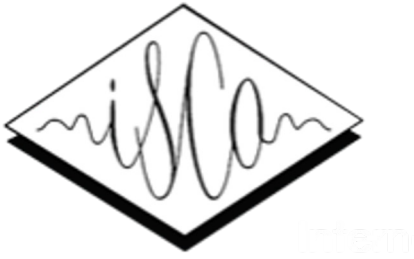
Machine Learning (SIGML) - Plans

- Events
  - Interspeech Satellite Workshop
    - 2-day event:
      - Day 1: Virtual, invited talks
      - Day 2: Hands-on tutorial, student session
  - Virtual Seminar Series

- Elections
  - To be held by the end of 2022

Sp. & Lang. Proc. for Assist. Tech. (SLPAT) - Outcomes

- SLPAT 2022 Workshop: 9th Workshop on Speech and Language Processing for Assistive Technologies (SLPAT) held in conjunction with ACL on May 27, 2022 (http://www.slpat.org/slpat2022/). The workshop was held virtually.

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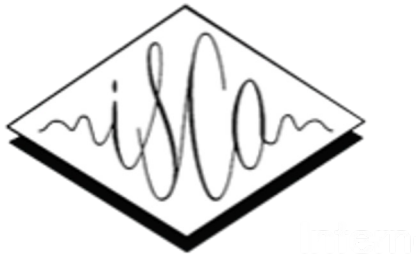
The History of Sp. Com. Sciences - Outcomes

- Events
  - Lacerda 120 - 5th International Workshop on the History of Speech Communication Research (HSCR)
  - Porto, Portugal, May 28-29, 2022
  - Dedicated to the memory of Armando de Lacerda (1902-1984). Born in Porto in Portugal, Lacerda is a pioneer in the speech sciences.
  - 12 presentations and a special exhibition

- Elections
  - none

- Special issues
  - none

The History of Sp. Com. Sciences - Plans

- Events
  - Because SIG-HIST is associated with the ISCA as well as the IPA (International Phonetic Association), the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences is selected for the 2023 event.
  - Place and time: Prague, August 7-11, 2023
  - Proposal for a special session was accepted

- Elections
  - tba

- Special issues
  - The next HSCR workshop is planned in Budapest 2024.

Child Computer Interaction (CHILD) - Outcomes - 2022/2023

- Events:
    - After the last INTERSPEECH, we organized the third edition of ICMI Workshop on Bridging Social Sciences and AI for Understanding Child Behavior (WoCBU'22) Web: https://sites.google.com/view/wocbu22/
    - In the 2022 workshop (held in November 2022):
        - Prof. Shrikanth Narayanan delivered a keynote entitled 'Child-centered Multimodal Machine Intelligence'
        - Dr. Catia Cucchiarini delivered a keynote entitled 'Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR)-based Reading Tutors: support in learning to read and insights into reading development

Child Computer Interaction (CHILD) - Outcomes - 2022/2023

- Events:
  - In 2023, we organize the fourth edition of the wokshop (WoCBU'23): https://sites.google.com/view/wocbu/
  - In the 2022 workshop (to held on October 13, 2023):
    - Prof. Daniel Messinger will deliver a keynote entitled 'Computational Approaches to Measuring and Modeling Children's Social Interaction and Development'
  - As planned, we organized a special issue on 'Child–Computer Interaction and Multimodal Child Behavior Analysis' at MTI (https://www.mdpi.com/journal/mti/special_issues/58MDA4358S)

Child Computer Interaction (CHILD) - Plans

- We plan to organize the fifthedition of the WoCBU workshop

- Elections: planned to be held in 2024

- Special issues: The current SI is open for submissions. We plan another one after the sixth edition of WoCBU series.

- Sponsors: We are currently in search of sponsors to cover the keynotes' expenses in coming events.

- If you work on child speech/behaviour analysis or child-computer interaction and interested in delivering a keynote, please contact me via h.kaya@uu.nl.
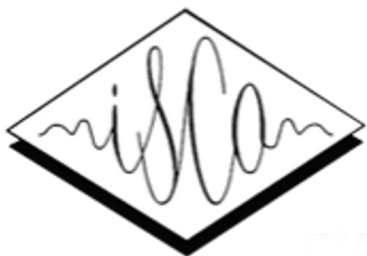
Robust Speech Processing (RoSP) - Plans

- Events
  - Challenges and workshops
    - Flagship challenge CHiME 7 with new format
      - Community driven challenge organization
      - DASR (Task 1): Distant automatic speech transcription and segmentation with multiple recording devices
      - UDASE (Task 2): Unsupervised domain adaptation for conversational speech enhancement
      - Satellite workshop @ Interspeech'23 (over 70 registrations in July)
    - Hands-free Speech Communication and Microphone Arrays (HSCMA 2024)
      - We're working on an application to the ISCA workshop

- Elections
  - Plan election by e-mail.
  - Call for candidates in September 2023

Security & Privacy in Sp. Com. (SPSC) - Outcomes

- Events
  - Organized "**2nd ISCA Symposium on Security and Privacy in Speech Communication joined with 2nd VoicePrivacy Challenge Workshop**"
    - Hybrid Satellite of Interspeech 2022
    - 81 on-site participants, 135 online participants
  - Monthly webinar series https://www.spsc-sig.org/webinar
  - Café Journal club (jointly reading interesting papers)
- Elections at Interspeech 2022
  - Incoming Chair: Jennifer Williams
  - Incoming Secretary: Ingo Siegert
- Increased SIG membership to 220 members

Security & Privacy in Sp. Com. (SPSC) - Plans

- Events
  - Organizing *"3rd Symposium on Security and Privacy in Speech Communication"*
    - Hybrid Satellite of Interspeech 2023
    - Including a panel discussion on AI regulation
  - Planning a mid-term online forum for spoofing and privacy

- Collaboration
  - Strengthening ties with the VoicePrivacy and ASVSpoof Challenges
  - Supporting an EU COST-Action proposal
  - Supporting creation of a new international shared-task on Forensic Enhancement Challenge
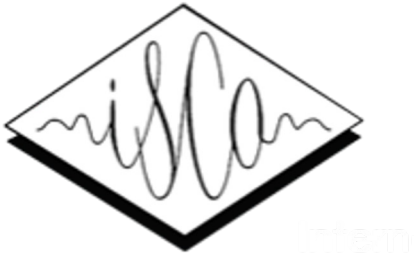
Spoken Language Translation (SLT) - Outcomes

➤ Events

- ○ Organization of the International Conference on Spoken Language Translation, 2023
  - ■ July, 13-14 2023, at ACL2023 as a hybrid event
  - ■ 9 shared tasks with 31 participating teams
    - • Same tasks compared to 2022
  - ■ IWSLT 20 years anniversary
  - ■ Best student award

- ○ Special session on SLT at Interspeech 2023
  - ■ Cancelled for limited number of accepted papers on the topic

- ○ Monthly webinar seminars: https://iwslt.org/lectures/
  - ■ One lecture every 2 months
  - ■ Speakers from prominent SLT academic and industrial teams all over the world
  - ■ 25 attendees, on average

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Spoken Language Translation (SLT) - Plans

- Events
  - Organization of the International Conference on Spoken Language Translation, 2024
  - Regular webinar seminars
  - Periodic round tables

- Special session
  - on SLT at Interspeech 2024
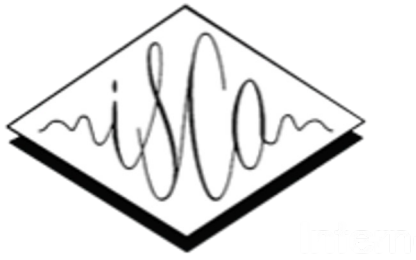
Language-SIGs

Aim of Language-SIGs

- ISCA supports speech communication research activities in various languages. We have 6 language SIGs and hold an annual meeting duirng INTERSPEECH. In the meeting, recent activities of each SIG are reported and new ideas are exchanged among the SIGs. It is also discussed what ISCA can do for the SIGs and what the SIGs can do for ISCA.
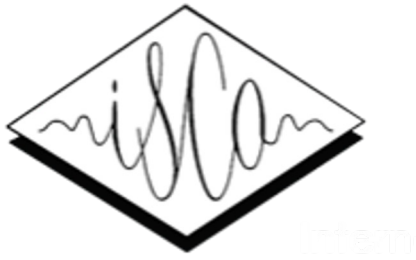
Members of Language-SIGs

- Chinese
- French
- Italian
- Indian languages
- Iberian languages
- Russian
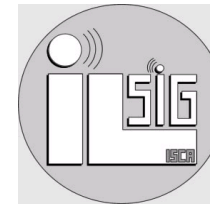
Each group will give us a brief presentation of their recent activities.

Geographical Outreach

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Aim of Geographical Outreach

- The purpose of this committee is to extend the services of ISCA to those regions where many researchers may not be able to attend Interspeech and participate in many ISCA-related activities easily.

- Currently the work of GO focuses on four regions where the researchers are under-represented in ISCA programs. The major goal is to have a sub-committee for each region and support them to make region-specific efforts.

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Members of GO

- Sub-committee on Eastern Europe

- Sub-committee on West Asia and North Africa

- Sub-committee on South Asia

- Sub-committee on Sub-Saharan Africa

Each sub-committee will give us a brief presentation of their recent activities.

A new sub-committee may start in Caribbean and Latin America.

Distinguished Lecturers

Aim of the DL program

- ISCA selects distinguished lecturers who visit under-represented regions of Eastern Europe, Africa, West/South/South-East Asia, and South/Latin America.

- They give a series of seminars in those regions, where interactive discussion is made between the lectures and young researchers including students.

- Current lecturers
    - Prof. Visar Berisha, School of Electrical Computer and Energy Engineering Arizona State University, USA (2023-2024)
    - Prof. Reinhold Häb-Umbach, Communications Engineering, Paderborn University, Germany (2021-2023)

Discussions

- Topics
  - What help needed from ISCA ?
  - How to increase the awareness about SIGs ?
  - Wider reach of information through ISCA Pad

- New SIGs
  - NoLISP, speech production, linguistics, psychology, brain studies, Latin America?

- Workshops
  - IS satellites: too many? Difficult to choose between overlapping dates? Competing with IS sessions?
  - Partnership with other associations/workshop series (e.g. WOCCI + ICMI): pros (SIG at frontiers) vs. cons (drop-outs of regular attendees, copyrights)
  - Avoid workshops with no ISCA endorsement