Departmental Seminar

Multimodal Communication: Linguistic, Cognitive, and Computational Perspectives

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | December 15, 2017 (Friday)
Rm 813, 8/F, The Jockey Club Tower | Centennial Campus | The University of Hong Kong

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Abstract
Human face-to-face communication is inherently multimodal, i.e., it encompasses auditory and visual modalities. When we speak, we spontaneously gesture, and this phenomenon is universal across cultures. In the recent years, linguistic research on co-speech gesture has shed a new light on the way we communicate. Moreover, gesture has been demonstrated to play a role beyond communicative function, e.g., congenitally blind people also gesture when speaking with each other. Research suggests co-speech gestures not only reflect, but also facilitate a range of cognitive processes. Furthermore, there is a rapidly growing interest in multimodal communication from computer science and AI researchers. Findings from multimodal experiments have been applied in modeling behavior in robots and conversational agents.

In this talk, I will provide an overview of multimodal communication research from linguistic, cognitive, and computational perspectives. I will then present results of my studies conducted as part of a Marie Curie project at the University of Copenhagen that span the three approaches. The talk will conclude with a demonstration of a practical application in the area of multimodality.

About the speaker
Magdalena Lis holds a Ph.D. from the Centre for Language Technology, University of Copenhagen. Her research work is situated in the area of Multimodal Communication. She has developed a new approach to multimodality using wordnets. She is a member of Marie Curie ITN, where she worked on communication modeling. Her experience spans academia as well as industry, where she has been working since receiving her Ph.D.

~All are Welcome~

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