Multimodal emotional speech perception: Why time and attention matters

Sonja A. Kotz[*1,2]

[*]Corresponding Author: sonja.kotz@maastrichtuniversity.nl
[1]Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience, Department of Neuropsychology and Psychopharmacology, Maastricht University, The Netherlands
[2]Department of Neuropsychology, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany

Social interactions rely on multiple verbal and non-verbal information sources and their interaction. Crucially, in such communicative interactions we can obtain information about the current emotional state of others ('what') but also about the timing of these information sources ('when'). However, the perception and integration of multiple emotion expressions is prone to environmental noise and may be influenced by a specific situational context or learned knowledge. In our work on the temporal and neural correlates of multimodal emotion expressions we address a number of questions by means of ERPs and fMRI within a predictive coding framework. In my lecture I will focus on the following questions: (1) How do we integrate verbal and non-verbal emotion expressions; (2) How does noise affect the integration of multiple emotion expressions; (3) How do cognitive demands impact the processing of multimodal emotion expressions; (4) How do we resolve interferences between verbal and nonverbal emotion expressions? In the end, I will embed answers to these questions in a more generalized framework on social communication.