

Conference Report: 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS 2023)

Report by: Eylem Altuntas

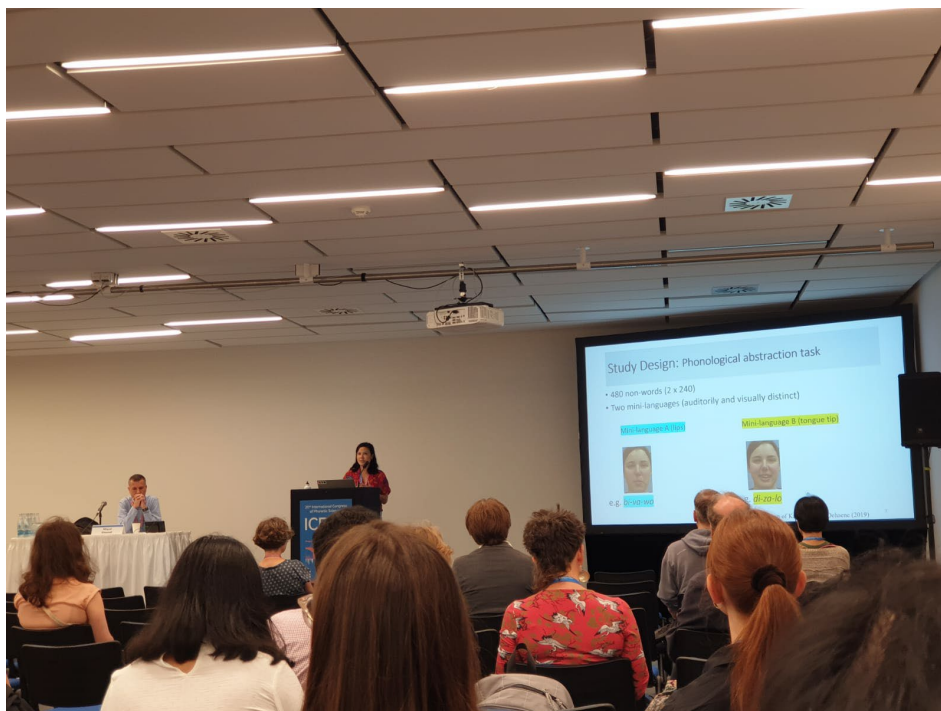
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I am delighted to share my experience and insights from the remarkable 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS 2023), which took place in the enchanting city of Prague, Czech Republic, from August 7th to August 11th, 2023. As an active participant and presenter at the event, I am excited to recount my involvement and contributions.

The conference opened with an invigorating welcome address by Radek Skarnitzl, Chair of the Organizing Committee, who extended a warm greeting to all attendees. His words emphasized the conference theme, "Intermingling Communities and Changing Cultures," reflecting the transformative impact of global interactions on speech patterns across diverse linguistic communities.

My role at the congress encompassed the presentation of three studies:

- **"An Amodal Study of Phonological Abstraction in Early Infancy"**: I had the honor of being the main author and presenter of this study. The research delved into the intricate process of phonological abstraction during the early stages of infancy. By exploring how infants abstract phonological information across different sensory modalities, the study aimed to shed light on the cognitive mechanisms that underlie language acquisition.



- **The Origins of Phonology and Lexicon in Infancy: Phonological Abstraction Before Perceptual Attunement?" and "Infant Directed Speech Expands F1/F2 Space for /i a u/: But What Happens to Central Vowels /ɜ ʊ/ in Australian English?":** I was also privileged to contribute as an author to these two collaborative studies. The former aimed to uncover the intricate relationship between phonology and lexicon in the early stages of infancy, while the latter investigated the expansion of vowel space influenced by infant-directed speech, with a focus on the vowels /ɜ ʊ/ in Australian English.

Additionally, I had the incredible opportunity to meet Ocke-Schwen Bohn and Linda Polka, renowned figures in the field. Engaging with these luminaries provided valuable insights and perspectives that enriched my experience.

Throughout the congress, attendees were presented with a diverse range of research and discussions. The event showcased the latest advancements in speech sciences and fostered interdisciplinary collaboration among scholars, researchers, and professionals. The conference offered a vibrant platform for networking and engaging in fruitful discussions with fellow enthusiasts.

Radek Skarnitzl's comparison of the 6th ICPhS in 1967 with the 20th ICPhS in 2023 highlighted the remarkable growth and development of phonetic sciences. The significant increase in participation, international representation, and collaborative authorship underscored the dynamic nature of this field.



Beyond the academic discourse, the conference allowed participants to immerse themselves in Prague's rich history and culture. The organizers thoughtfully integrated cultural experiences, such as savoring Czech cuisine and renowned local beer, into the event, enhancing the overall experience.

As the congress concluded, certificates of attendance were awarded to acknowledge the contributions of all participants. This recognition reflects the collaborative efforts that made ICPHS 2023 a success. Personally, I am grateful for the opportunity to present my research, engage in scholarly dialogue, and connect with peers from around the world.

In conclusion, the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences was an inspiring journey that deepened my understanding of speech sciences, promoted interdisciplinary collaboration, and ignited my enthusiasm for continued exploration within the field.