

Two Language Acquisition Special Sessions **at Interspeech 2017 in Stockholm!**

We're pleased to announce [two special sessions](#) on corpora and computational models of language acquisition at Interspeech 2017:

- 1) Data collection, transcription and annotation issues in child language acquisition settings
- 2) Computational models in child language acquisition

With recent technological advances that make it possible to collect naturalistic daylong recordings of a child's language environment, new avenues and new challenges arise. These sessions address the role of such corpus data in language acquisition research, focusing on **the challenge of creating optimally re-usable datasets for future research**, and on how such **rich, realistic data can be used in computational models**.

Both sessions aim to bring together communities with great symbiotic potential. Computational Scientists and Speech Engineers can gain unprecedented access to difficult-to-obtain data and propose sustainable, useful standardization practices that suit their needs. Developmental Psychologists and Linguists can gain insight into the ongoing challenges and advances in methods for automating annotations and transcriptions, and generating suitable analysis tools.

Possible contributions include, but are not limited to:

- Tool demonstrations for corpus annotation
- Novel automated analyses and/or visualization procedures
- Computational models that take speech corpus data as input
- Benchmark datasets for tool evaluation
- Studies collecting Big Naturalistic Data
- Manual vs. semi-automatic and automatic transcription methods
- Possibilities and limitations of Wordbank (wordbank.stanford.edu)
- Possibilities and limitations of Databrary (databrary.org)

Please note too that the **Addressee Sub-Challenge** of this year's Computational Paralinguists Challenge ([ComParE](#)) is highly relevant to these sessions, consisting of an *child-directed vs. adult-directed speech classification task*.

Papers for this challenge can be submitted to the special sessions.

For more details, follow this link: <http://emotion-research.net/sigs/speech-sig/is17-compare>

N.B.: Special sessions will only go ahead with a sufficient number of submitted papers, therefore we recommend that you do **indicate both our special session and a topic from the general topic list** to ensure maximal consideration for Interspeech 2017.

Submission deadline for **4-page papers** is March 14th, 2017.

Details: <http://www.interspeech2017.org/calls/papers/>

We are looking forward to seeing you at Interspeech 2017!