Temporal and spatial patterns in face-to-face conversation

Jens Edlund (KTH Stockholm)

From a conversational point of view, laughter differs from speech in that whereas speech is predominantly one-speaker-at-a-time (although overlaps are certainly not uncommon), laughter is often produced simultaneously – it is indeed said to be contagious. With this as a starting point, I'll present an overview of how various phenomena in spoken face-to-face conversation are temporally and spatially related, and attempt to draw some parallels to laughter.