Multiple information stream integration in human listeners

Within my PhD project (supervised by Dr Odette Scharenborg and Dr Esther Janse), I investigate speech perception in realistic environments. We are aiming at contributing to a better understanding of how listeners integrate lexical, prosodic and affective information in speech perception when facing non-optimal listening situations. Further, we investigate whether and why listener abilities (e.g., cognitive and hearing abilities) affect this integration process. In this talk I will give an overview of two recent studies. These will include the impact of cognitive load on lexical activation in older adults and the perception of emotion in conversational speech. Moreover I will present our up-coming study about affective speech perception in hearing aid users.

CV: Juliane Schmidt graduated from Saarland University, Germany in 2011 with an MA in Phonetics, English Linguistics and Developmental Psychology. Her thesis was written on the perception of affective utterances in older listeners. In 2012, she started working on a PhD project at the Centre for Language Studies, Radboud University in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. She is part of the FP7 Marie Curie Initial Training Network INSPIRE (Investigating Speech Processing in Realistic Environments) which consists of several European universities, two academic hospitals and several industry partners. She is interested in language and emotion perception with a special focus on how aging affects communicative skills.