

**Phonetics Colloquium**  
**Wednesday, 12 December 2012, 14:15**  
**building C7.4, room 5.09**

## **Factors in phonetic convergence in second language interaction**

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Phonetic convergence involves shifts of segmental as well as suprasegmental features in pronunciation towards those of a communicative partner (Pardo,2006). Although the convergence mechanism seems to a certain extent automatic and beyond our conscious control, not all speakers are prone to converge exactly to the same extent and in the same acoustic features. Individual differences in the person's talent and personality, combined with the social context of the encounter, probably set the frame for the displayed degree of convergence. In second language interaction, especially phonetic talent seems to be a crucial factor accounting for the presence or absence of adaptation. A hybrid model of phonetic convergence could clarify the influence of automatic as well as the more controlled components on speech accommodation and at the same time incorporate individual differences which are partially responsible for the considerable variance between speakers found in most convergence experiments.