Birds of a feather flock together but opposites attract!
On the connection between prosodic entrainment and perceived attractiveness and conversational quality

Prosodic entrainment has been found to be iconically connected to social relationships in a way that greater prosodic similarity resembles smaller social distance. Recent studies found prosodic entrainment to be predominant in conversational situations characterized by greater degrees of cooperation, collaboration, communicative success or more positive conversational topics. Speakers who show greater degrees of prosodic entrainment were also found to be perceived as more supportive or likable. However, when it comes to positive social connotations, perceived attractiveness suggests a more complex picture. Previous research shows that male speakers lower their pitch while female speakers raise their pitch when talking to a more attractive interlocutor. Does that mean that we find prosodic convergence in cooperative, positive or good conversations in general but prosodic divergence in conversations with attractive people? And what happens in good conversations with attractive people? This talk aims to shed a light on these seemingly contradicting phenomena regarding prosodic entrainment and suggest a simple solution to this problem.