Forskningsmiljön Språk och kultur
Institutionen för kultur och samhälle (IKOS)
Research Environment Language & Culture
Department of Culture & Society

Forskarseminarium
onsdag 4 mars 2020
kl 10.15-12 i sal 4260 (Key-huset)
Research Seminar
Wednesday 4 March 2020
10.15-12.00 in room 4260 (Key Building)

Non-lexical sounds in human-robot action coordination

Hannah Pelikan (SoK, IKOS)

Working at the intersection of multimodal conversation analysis and human-computer interaction, my research explores how humans interpret non-lexical robot sounds. In human-human interaction, non-lexical vocalizations are tightly intertwined with the body (Keevallik, 2018; Wiggins, 2019). By working with robots of different morphologies, I explore the implications of different robot bodies for the interpretation of non-lexical sounds. I currently work with a palm-sized Cozmo toy robot in family homes and a self-driving Navya bus that is being tested on LiU's campus Valla. Videotaping everyday interaction with robots in public and private spaces, I scrutinize whether and how humans make sense of robot beeps at specific moments and in the particular sequential contexts that they occur in. My analysis demonstrates how humans draw on sounds to coordinate their actions with a robot at a moment-by-moment level. This research both deepens our understanding of the role of non-lexical utterances in human interaction and has implications for design of sound behavior of robots and other autonomous agents. In this research seminar I will present my PhD progress so far and discuss what I am planning to do next.

Keevallik, L. (2018) What Does Embodied Interaction Tell Us About Grammar?, *Research on Language and Social Interaction*, 51:1, 1-21, DOI: 10.1080/08351813.2018.1413887 [with commentary from E. Couper-Kuhlen & J. Streeck]

Wiggins, S. (2019). Moments of pleasure: A preliminary classification of gustatory mmms and the enactment of enjoyment during infant mealtimes. *Frontiers in Psychology*. DOI: 10.3389/fpsyg.2019.01404