



CICLO

**CONFERÊNCIAS 18|19**

ISPA - INSTITUTO UNIVERSITÁRIO

# DOES PROSODY MAKE THE DIFFERENCE?

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROSODY OF MATERNAL VOICE IN MOTHER-INFANT INTERACTIONS



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The prosody of speech is a very important index of emotional activation (Juslin & Laukka, 2003; Scherer, 2003) and emotional prosodic cues are important to understand speaker meaning of speech and communicative intention. Many prosodic parameters are implied in this process and differentiate the emotional valence of the voice of adults and children. This emotion-prosody association is under both conscious and unconscious control. In fact, we can intentionally modify voice features to convey extra-linguistic meanings (i.e. in irony), but prosody can automatically reveal the affect we are trying to suppress (i.e. in lies).

Prosody is also interpreted by infants even before they become able to understand the lexical meaning of speech. For this reason, it has been widely studied in the context of mother-infant interaction. Indeed, a large number of studies evidenced that from their first interactions with new-borns, mothers use a prosody of the voice that is different from the one used while speaking with adults and it has several features similar to emotional prosody. It has therefore been suggested that mothers use the voice to share and express effective meanings to the infant and the child. I will discuss the several implications of the study of prosody in mother-infant interactions, how it is affected by maternal wellbeing, the importance of the concordance of prosody with other maternal interactive behaviours, and how it affects infant and children development.

**20 MAIO 2019**

12H30 | SALA DE ATOS

**ENTRADA LIVRE**

HOST  
**MANUELA  
VERÍSSIMO**



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