

## **Description for the general public**

The existing body of research on nonverbal communication, including studies on human voice, has constantly grown in the past decade. Most studies have examined nonverbal properties of the human voice (such as voice pitch and timbre) and tested what these vocal features can tell us about the speaker. Yet, there is surprisingly little consensus about the methodology used in these studies, specifically the verbal content and duration of voice recordings. While in some psychological studies, researchers record and analyze vowel sounds or words, others use sentences or fragments of spontaneous conversations for acoustical analyses. There is good reason to predict that this variation in the length and verbal content of voice recordings could affect the measurement of key *nonverbal* properties of speech (e.g., pitch) as well as how the voice is perceived by listeners, including how listeners assess the sex, age, and personality traits of speakers. The aim of our proposed project is to verify these hypotheses in a series of three studies. Their methodology will allow us to test whether acoustic nonverbal voice properties differ as a function of speech stimulus type, as well as the degree to which they correlate with various psychosocial traits. We will examine whether unseen speakers, based on different speech stimulus types, are perceived differently (e.g. with higher accuracy) by listeners on various domains.

The outcomes of the project will progress studies on the human voice, offering researchers a better understanding of the available research methods and providing answers to the question: to what extent are the results of previous studies reliable and comparable?