The typology of the temporal fine structure of speech: Lengthening and pauses in spoken corpora from 51 languages

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In this talk we will first present DoReCo (Language Documentation Reference Corpus, see https://doreco.huma-num.fr/), a brand-new, openly available CLLD resource consisting of timealigned and morphologically annotated spoken language corpora on 51 small and often endangered languages from around the world. These corpora were extracted from language documentation collections and processed into a uniform format in collaboration with experts on these languages. We will then introduce an ongoing research program that uses this resource to study cross-linguistic variation regarding pause probabilities and the local acceleration and deceleration of speech such as phrase-final lengthening. DoReCo's broad cross-linguistic coverage allows us to reveal areal prosodic patterns, as well as dependencies between pauses and phonetic de-/acceleration, on the one hand, and language-specific grammatical structure, such as basic word order and phonological features, on the other hand.