Investigating predictors of regressive cross-linguistic influence in multilingual speech
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Regressive cross-linguistic influence (CLI) is the phenomenon of later-learned languages such as a third language (L3) influencing an individual's earlier-learned languages, such as their first language (L1) and second language (L2). Regressive CLI has been observed to vary in previous research on multilingual speech. My current research explores different possible, and mutually compatible, explanations for variation in regressive CLI by focusing on multilingual German speakers who have acquired Spanish as a L3. In this talk, I will first report findings on speech rhythm in L3 learners of Spanish based in the U.S. with either a L1 English - L2 German or a L1 German - L2 English repertoire; these findings show an interaction between typological similarity and order of acquisition in regressive CLI for rhythm. I will then outline my plans to examine multilingual German speakers living in Germany, including the roles of speech planning and speech modality. This work will allow a comparison of multilinguals living in different language environments, helping to further elaborate current theories of multilingualism and phonetic changes due to language contact, acquisition, and attrition.