

Embodied pronunciation instruction: empirical evidence and recent findings

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Prosody is a central and structural component of the phonology of a language, and it is tightly connected to gesture from a temporal and pragmatic perspective. Gestures and more generally body movements, whether naturally produced or specifically designed for a pedagogical purpose, can efficiently support language learning. In this talk, we will present empirical studies assessing the value of a series of hand gestures and body movements mimicking rhythm and intonation to improve the pronunciation of segmental and suprasegmental features in a foreign language.



Florence Bails is a French teacher and Fellow researcher in the Phonetics group at the University of Cologne, Germany. Her research is centered on the role of prosody, gesture, and music in the acquisition of a foreign language.



Pilar Prieto is an ICREA Research Professor at the Department of Translation and Language Sciences at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Catalunya. Her research focuses on the communicative role of prosody and gesture in language, as well as their significance in language development and learning.

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