

# 1 Foreword to the final AIPUK

**Hartmut R. Pfitzinger**

The first issue of AIPUK appeared in 1973, only two years after Klaus Kohler was appointed to the newly created Chair of Phonetics at Kiel University. This is the last issue of AIPUK and it appears a couple of months before the Institute of Phonetics and Digital Speech Processing (IPDS) finally closes. It is not very often that one really knows what the final volume is. Some journals just disappear although the intention to continuously publish seemed to have been persisted. In the case of AIPUK it was decided many years before that the IPDS will close on 1st April 2011, and there can't be any working paper afterwards when the name of the institute has disappeared.

When I took up my new position in Kiel in April 2007 as interim professor and head of the IPDS, my ultimate goal was to present a clear perspective with several ways into professional life for all students of the IPDS and to provide them with the necessary knowledge and skills. So I found myself supervising a total of 39 master theses, which pursued the claim to fulfill all scientific standards while answering self-developed research questions and demonstrating the skills learned. Furthermore, I supervised and examined two PhD students of the IPDS and co-supervised seven others.

The room capacities of the institute have always been excellent and perfectly adequate for a research facility in the field of spoken language communication (Fig. 1.1). But first

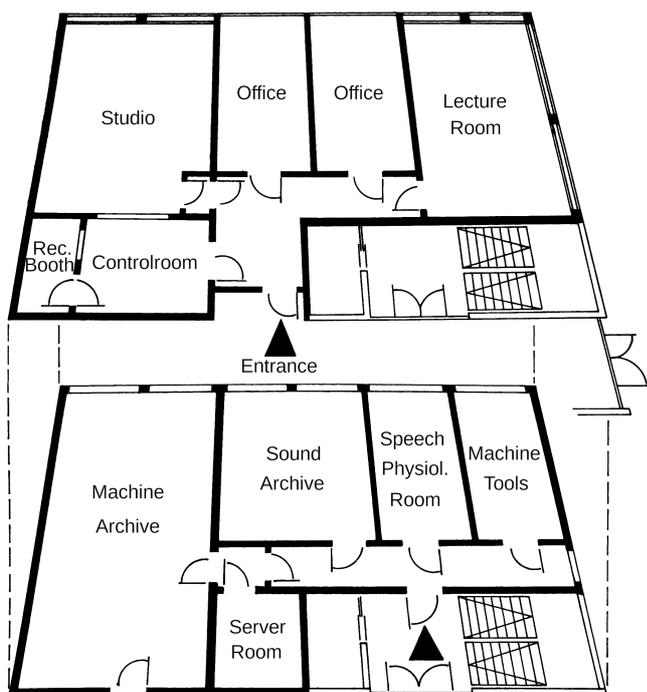


Fig. 1.1: Floor plan of the laboratory part of the IPDS.

of all, both the staff and the device infrastructure had to be expanded considerably. The latter included the conversion of the recording studio and additional modern equipment such as *Microtech Gefell M-940* microphones and *RME Fireface 800* sound card as well as some Linux computers with fast hardware. The former led to an increase in the number of employees to an average of ten. Accordingly, the four years as head of the IPDS were a very fulfilling task for me and I am proud and honoured to have accompanied so many students during their studies and graduation.

The present edition of AIPUK shows only a small part of the entire research activity of the last four years and mainly more recent work from 2010. It starts with two papers on intonation: The first questions the idea of a cross-linguistic continuum within prenuclear rises because a reanalysis reveals discontinuity. The second investigates utterance-final intonation contours and discovers that truncation and compression are not the only adjustment strategies. Then, two methodology papers follow: one presents the design and recording of a database containing voices of speakers with extraordinary body size and age for investigating voice quality. The other presents a tool for conducting computer-aided perceptions tests and was used in many studies during the last 10 years. The next paper uses both methods to investigate the relationship between acoustic parameters and visual imagination of the speaker. Speakers adapt their way of speaking to the respective situation. To study this, Nick Campbell recorded a female speaker in every-day conversations in a 5-year-project. Anja Hübner was so fascinated by this idea that she recorded herself every day for 3 months, achieving a huge database and investigating prosodic parameters. Two papers follow which focus on the relationship between the perception and acoustics of authentic emotional speech but induce it in two different ways: the first one records dialogs between welfare recipients and their advisors mainly about employment and payment cutback. The second paper compares German recorded during a first person shooter video game with Hebrew recorded during sessions of psychotherapy. The final paper investigates early vs. medial F0 peak alignment and brings AIPUK full circle.

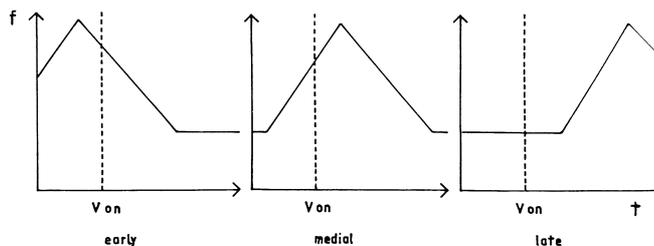
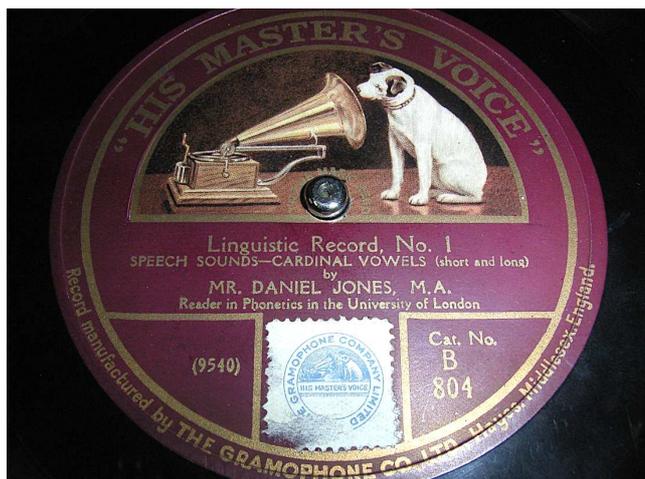


Fig. 1.2: "Schematic representation of the three intonation patterns early, medial and late peak (the dashed line 'Von' marks vowel onset)." (Gartenberg & Panzlaff-Reuter 1991, p. 31, Fig. 1)



**Fig. 1.3:** Original gramophone record of Daniel Jones speaking the eight primary cardinal vowels (Jones 1917).

Some of the contributions come from student researchers who are more advanced now than I was after my master thesis. The roots of my professional scientific life were in 1991 at the IPDS when I became a student assistant and had to draw by hand most of the figures for AIPUK 25. At the time I did not realize the meaning of the AIPUK in the scientific world of phonetics and that one of my drawings (the one with the stylization of early, medial, and late intonation peaks, see Fig. 1.2) could become the most often cited figure of all AIPUKs. Also, I couldn't have imagined that I ever would scientifically contribute to the same topic (Pfitzinger et al. 2009). The original figure is found in Gartenberg & Panzlaff-Reuter (1991, p. 31, Fig. 1), and it is also reprinted in this final volume of AIPUK (Fig. 10.1 on p. 77).

I'm deeply indebted to Klaus Kohler who hired me as a student assistant. Also, he personally conducted my phonetic ear-training and e.g. incorporated the original cardinal vowel recordings of Daniel Jones with utmost care, which are also available as an original gramophone record in the well-equipped sound archive of the IPDS (Fig. 1.3). Probably, this was one of the impulses, together with the lessons of Wim van Dommelen on vowel perception and acoustics, that



**Fig. 1.4:** Peter Ladefoged visited my poster on the acoustics of the IPA vowel diagram at ICPHS'03 in Barcelona (Pfitzinger 2003).

awoke my interest and captured my imagination, which later led me to investigate the relationship between vowel perception and acoustics in my own research over many years. And when as a young researcher I met my scientific idol Peter Ladefoged (Fig. 1.4), as to me his PhD thesis was a milestone in vowel quality research (Ladefoged 1967), this only augmented my desire to continue practicing science. I completed my habilitation and suddenly the opportunity to go to Kiel arose, and it was clear to me to return to my alma mater.

Klaus Kohler repeatedly used the forewords of AIPUKs to report the history, respective situation and goals of the IPDS (e.g. Kohler 1979). As part of that tradition, I have now had the honor of adding the final chapter of the IPDS and closing the book, but not without saying to the founder of the IPDS: Thank you for all you have done for the progress and prosperity of the field of phonetics and for the people.

Hartmut Pfitzinger

Kiel, 24th October 2010

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**Fig. 1.5:** Klaus Kohler with the "Buschmann-Tonvibrator" in the historical acoustic-phonetic collection of the TU Dresden 2006.