



The Golden Age of Speech and Language Science

by

Professor Mark Liberman

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Date: 4 October 2010 (Monday)
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Venue: LT 1, Lady Shaw Building, CUHK

Abstracts

From the perspective of a linguist, today's vast archives of digital text and speech, along with new analysis techniques and inexpensive computation, look like a wonderful new scientific instrument, a modern equivalent of the 17th-century invention of the telescope and microscope. We can now observe linguistic patterns in space, time, and cultural context, on a scale three to six orders of magnitude greater than in the past, and simultaneously in much greater detail than before. Scientific use of these new instruments remains mainly potential, but the next decade is likely to be a new "golden age" of research. This talk will discuss some of the barriers to be overcome, present some successful examples, and speculate about future directions.

Biography of the Speaker

Mark Liberman worked at AT&T Bell Laboratories from 1975 until 1990, when he moved to the University of Pennsylvania, where he is Trustee Professor of Phonetics, Director of the Linguistic Data Consortium, and Faculty Director of College Houses and Academic Services. He was a co-founder of the popular linguistics blog Language Log. His current research is focused on the scientific application of techniques from speech and language engineering, and on the phonetics and phonology of tone and intonation.

ALL ARE WELCOME

For ENQUIRIES: (852) 3163-4351

** Light refreshment will be served at 4:45 p.m. before the lecture **