

# Preface

This volume of the Working Papers in General Linguistics and Phonetics contains the proceedings of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Swedish Phonetics Conference, FONETIK 2021.

The conference is held from June 8 to June 9, 2021. It will be virtual, transmitted via Zoom, hosted by Lund University, where the organizing committee will pull strings from a control room.

FONETIK 2021 is one in the series of annual conferences for phoneticians and speech scientists in Sweden, which regularly attract participants from Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Estonia, and sometimes from other countries.

There are 11 contributions in this volume, representing a wide variety of phonetic topics: speech perception, acoustic phonetics, speech technology, prosody, neurophonetics, multimodality, sound change, and more. Speakers range from up-and-coming students to established senior professors. Both university staff and participants from other parts of society, companies as well as authorities, are represented.

The virtual format is due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has afflicted people worldwide for well over a year now. Last year's FONETIK was canceled due to the disease. We thought we could wait for a year, let the dark times pass, and have a physical meeting this year. But, as Publilius Syrus would say, *a person plans one thing, Fate another*. A year later, and still under pandemic restrictions, there was no way we could allow for another lost FONETIK meeting, so we decided to go virtual. To our surprise, we then discovered that the virtual format is not entirely void of appeal. It has led us to the proposal of a new type of session, the *thematic discussion*, which we now try for the first time.

We thank all participants for making FONETIK 2021 an extraordinary occasion that we will long remember as a light in these dark times. We would like to express our special gratitude to all the contributors to the proceedings, who have put their effort into making this event possible even in the face of adverse conditions.

Lund, June 2021

The Organizing Committee

*Mikael Roll, Mechtild Tronnier, Gilbert Ambrazaitis, Johan Frid, and Anna Hjortdal*