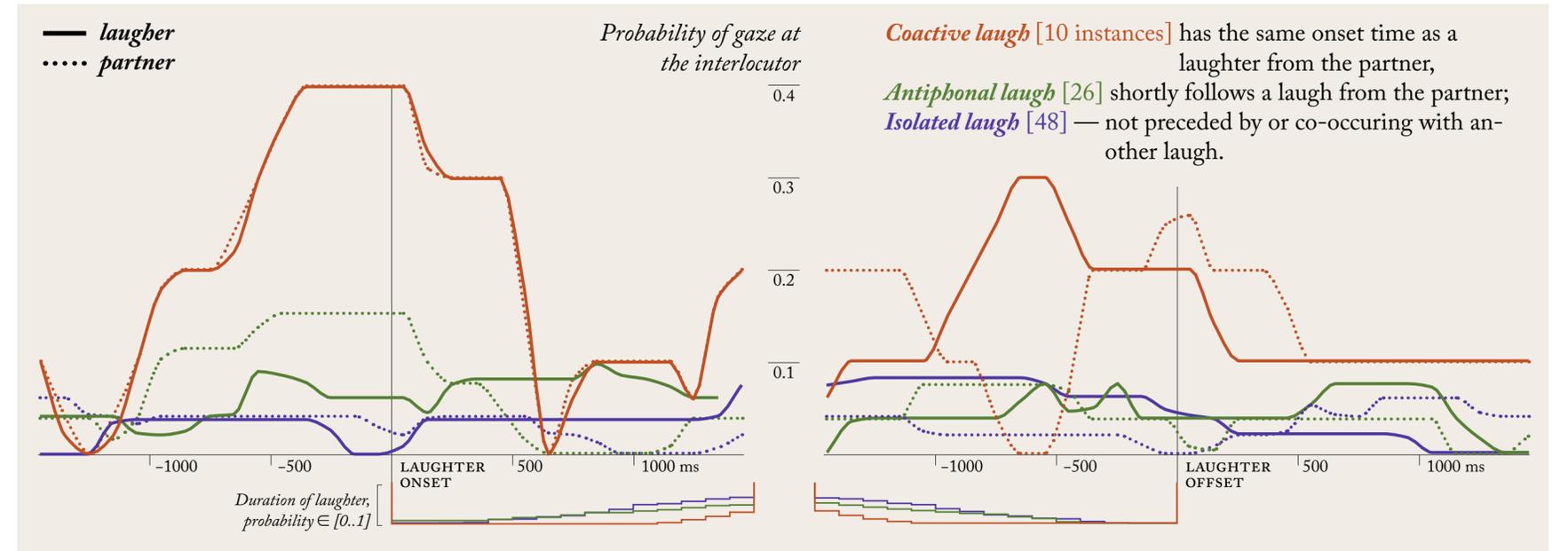


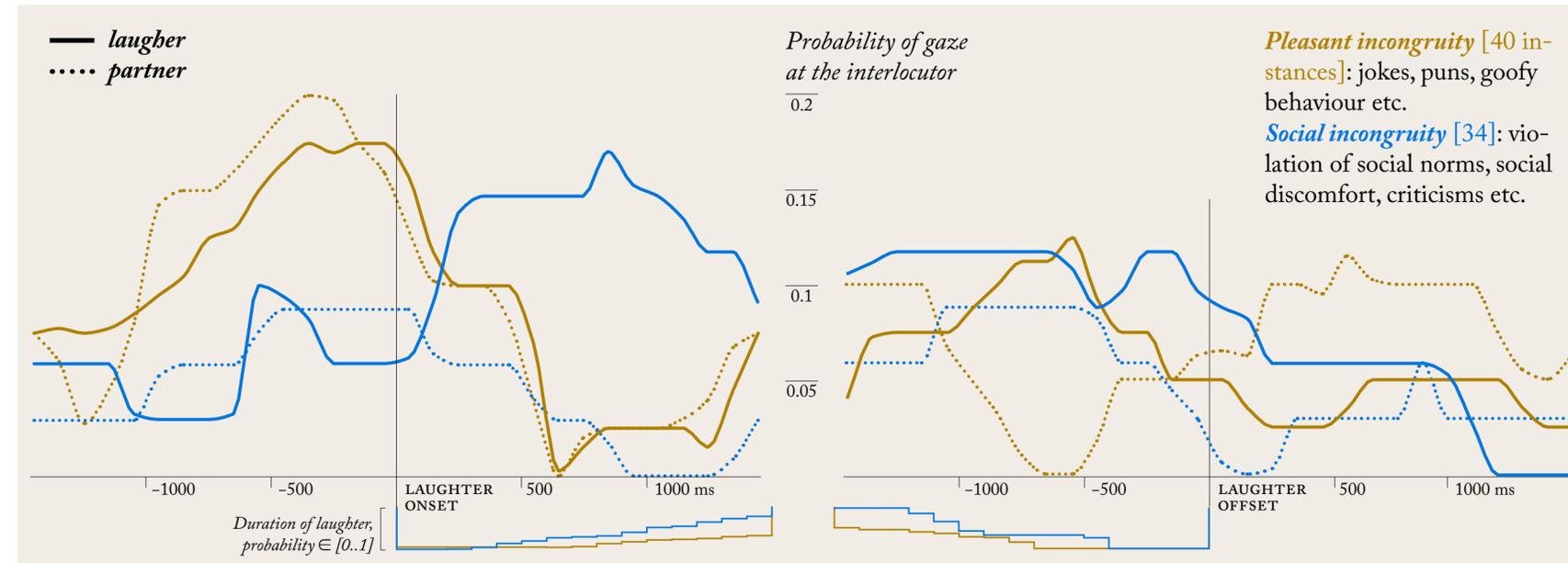
Chiara Mazzocconi\*  
 Vladislav Maraev†  
 Vidya Somashekarappa†  
 Christine Howes†

\*Institute of Language, Communication and Brain,  
 Laboratoire Parole et Langage, Aix-Marseille University  
 †Centre for Linguistic Theory and Studies in Probability (CLASP),  
 Department of Philosophy, Linguistics and Theory of Science,  
 University of Gothenburg

# Looking for laughs: Gaze interaction with laughter pragmatics and coordination



Gaze is a crucial signal for coordination and for eliciting responses, not only for speech but also for non-verbal vocalisations.



Laughter, performing different pragmatic functions, is related to different gaze patterns.

We analysed 23 minutes from three dyadic interactions from the Good Housekeeping Institute (GHI) Corpus annotating laughter following Mazzocconi et al. (2020) and gaze according to Somashekarappa et al. (2020).

### H1 Social stress hypothesis:<sup>1,2</sup>

Laughter's gaze is less likely if the laugh is related to social incongruity (vs. pleasant).

**H2 Gaze attraction:** Based on the fact that laughter can function as an attention getting device,<sup>3</sup> partner will direct their gaze at the laugher after laughter production.

**H3 Gaze as invitation to laugh:** We expect antiphonal laughter to be preceded by an 'inviting' gaze from the first laugher, who instantiates the 'gaze window'<sup>4</sup> which may enable a turn shift.

A: It's "like slightly"  
 B: yeah ((shrugs))  
 A: I like hummus|||<laughter>  
 B: yeah<laughter>

- C1** The laugher gazes more at the partner after the onset of social incongruity laughter (vs. pleasant). H1 cannot be totally rejected because the laugher is less likely to look at the partner before the onset of social incongruity laughter (vs. pleasant), when the laughable is likely to be produced.
- C2** In our setting, laughter does not seem to elicit a gaze orienting reaction — attention to the interaction is already granted.
- C3** Antiphonal laughs are more likely to be preceded by gaze from the partner who laughs the first, compared to isolated laughter. Gaze from and at the laugher is even more likely in the case of coactive laughs.

<sup>1</sup> Schneier et al. (2011), Stanley and Martin (1968)  
<sup>2</sup> Kendrick and Holler (2017)  
<sup>3</sup> Pinheiro et al. (2017), Reddy et al. (2002), Stevenson et al. (1986)  
<sup>4</sup> Bavelas et al. (2002), Rossano (2013)