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Be polite by all means!

Multimodal face-managing

Face-threatening acts (FTAs) can be accomplished in any modality and channel. Most previous work in Politeness Theory (Brown and Levinson, 1987) considered verbal utterances with few studies focussing on gestural non-verbal behaviour.

Laughter can act as face-saving device to minimise criticism, accompany asking for a favour, present opposing opinions and soften trouble-tellings. It can also be an FTA itself, as it can be produced with derisive intentions.

Disambiguation is multimodal. Laughter can be used to mitigate a speech FTA, and gaze can be used to disambiguate laughter so that it won't be considered an FTA.

Future work:

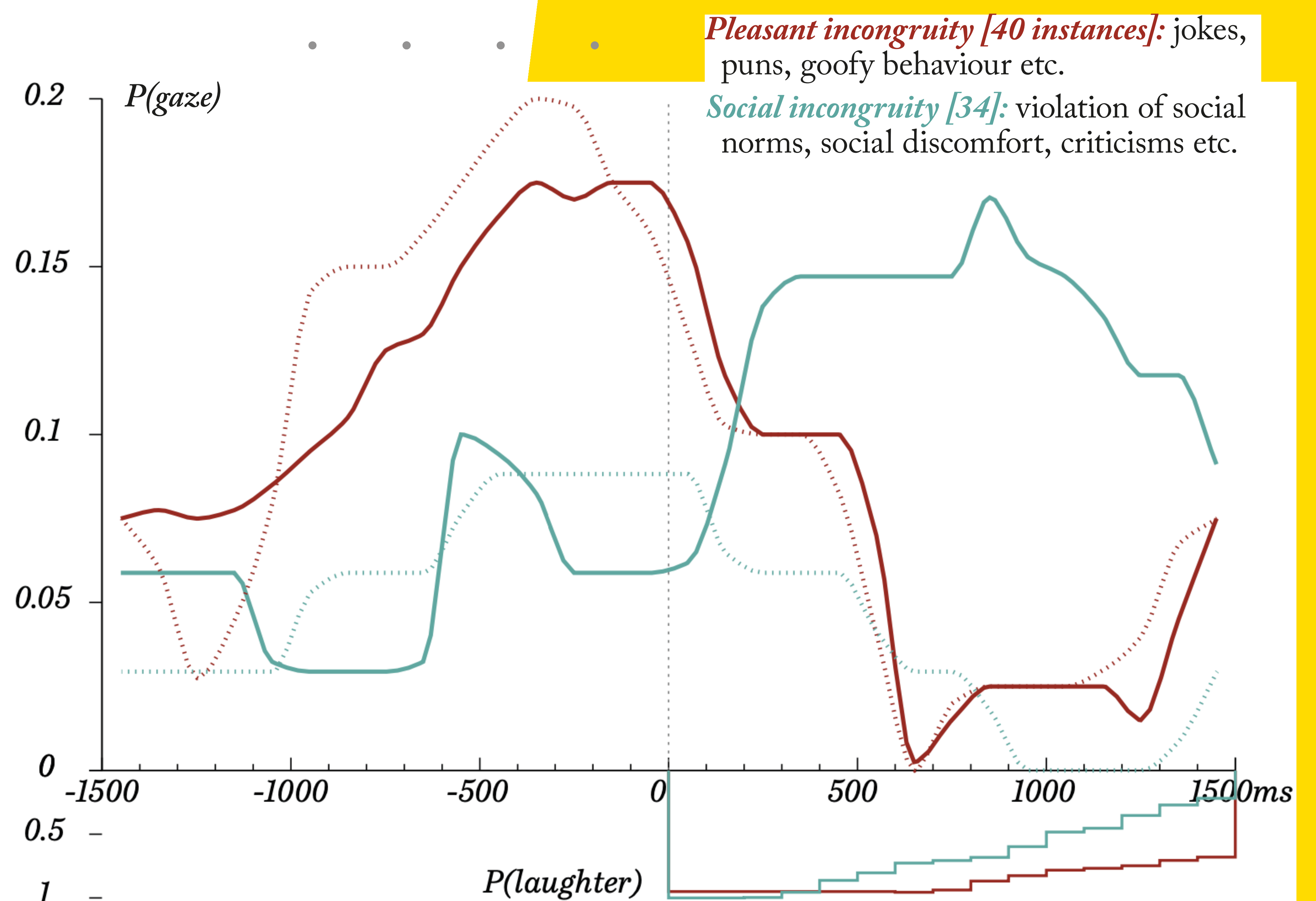
FTA annotations for both laughs and their arguments – laughables perception experiments with virtual agents and VR interventions

implementation in virtual agents

Laughter and gaze

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).

Laughs, performing different pragmatic functions, are related to different gaze patterns.



Probability of gaze at the interlocutor around the onset of laughter depending on laughable incongruity type. **Line code: solid line – laugher; dashed line – partner.** The probability of laughter duration is shown at the bottom of the figure.

our study & references

