

Priming, repetition, alignment - are we all studying the same phenomenon (and how can we know)?

With many fields now working on alignment in dialogue (or priming, repetition, resonance, entrainment, etc.), an abundance of methodological approaches has emerged, which can make it difficult to compare findings and draw uniform conclusions. To move this multidisciplinary field forward, we need clear and unambiguous terms to compare theoretical perspectives and empirical operationalizations. To this end, we created an integrative framework to decompose the notion of behavioural alignment into its constituent dimensions. We consider five key dimensions that help characterize the relation between any pair of behaviours: time, sequence, meaning, form, and modality. These dimensions can be used to sharpen predictions and to formulate operationalizations in a transparent and systematic manner. In this presentation I will present the framework, and demonstrate its utility by showcasing its application in recent work on lexical and gestural alignment.