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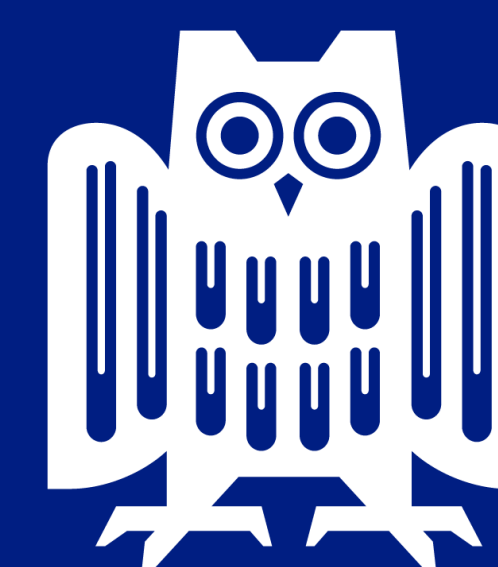
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Structures that enable the timing of shared laughter in conversation

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Listen to the examples

Aims

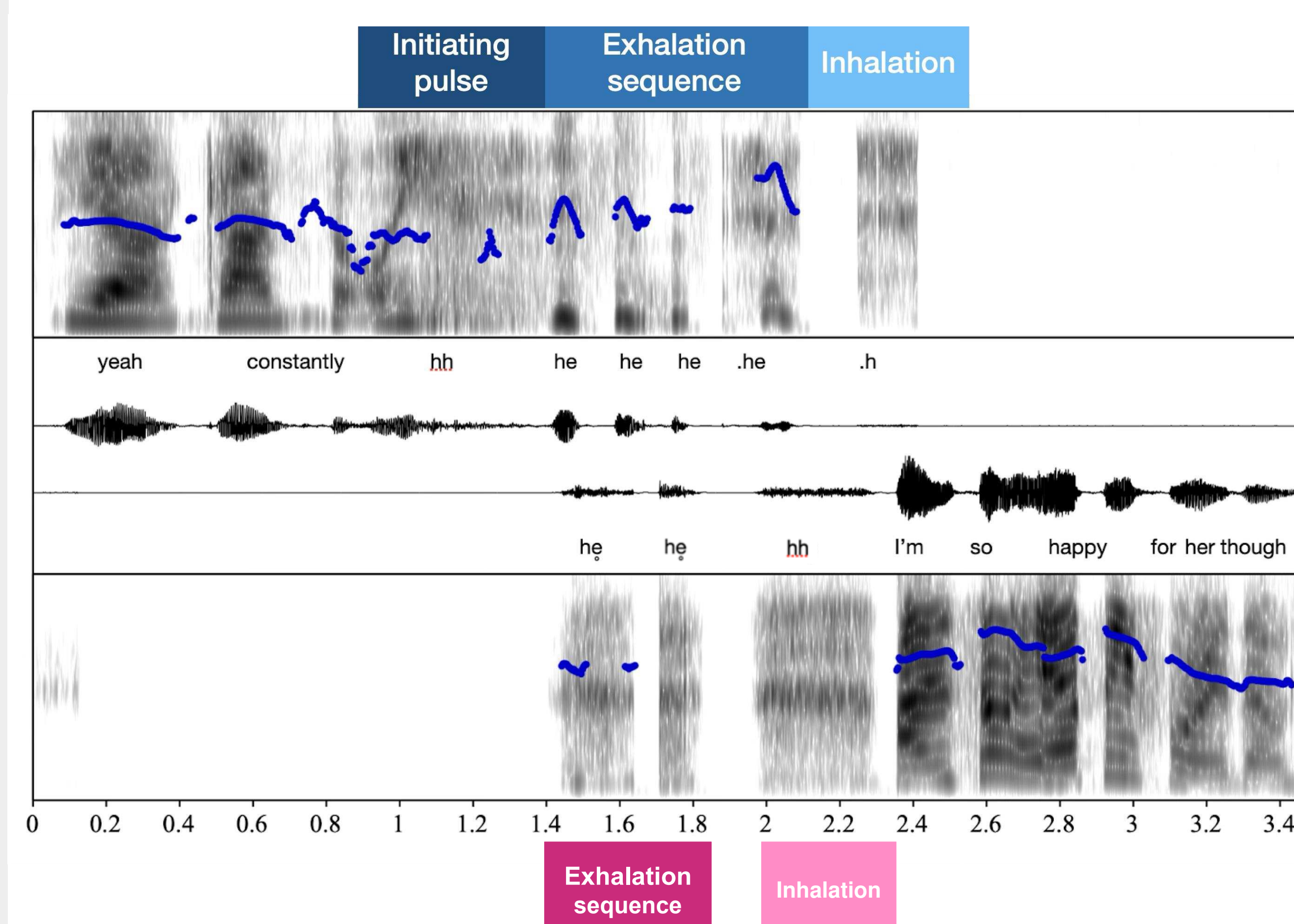
- To uncover phonetic and social organisation of laughter in spoken English, German, Spanish and Finnish conversations
- How do participants use phonetic details of laughter to manage its unfolding in real time?
- We detail the internal structure of laughter bouts and how phonetic features are used to coordinate laughter

The organisation of laughter (Chafe, 2007)

initiating pulse	exhalation sequence	inhalation
Voiced or voiceless Typically glottal, may have oral initiation Explosive onset with turbulent airflow	Voiced or voiceless Oral, nasal, or oronasal Variations in jaw opening Melodic and rhythmical structure Phonation type	Mostly voiceless Sometimes voiced Friction: glottal, also oral ([.s, .t, .m̥...])

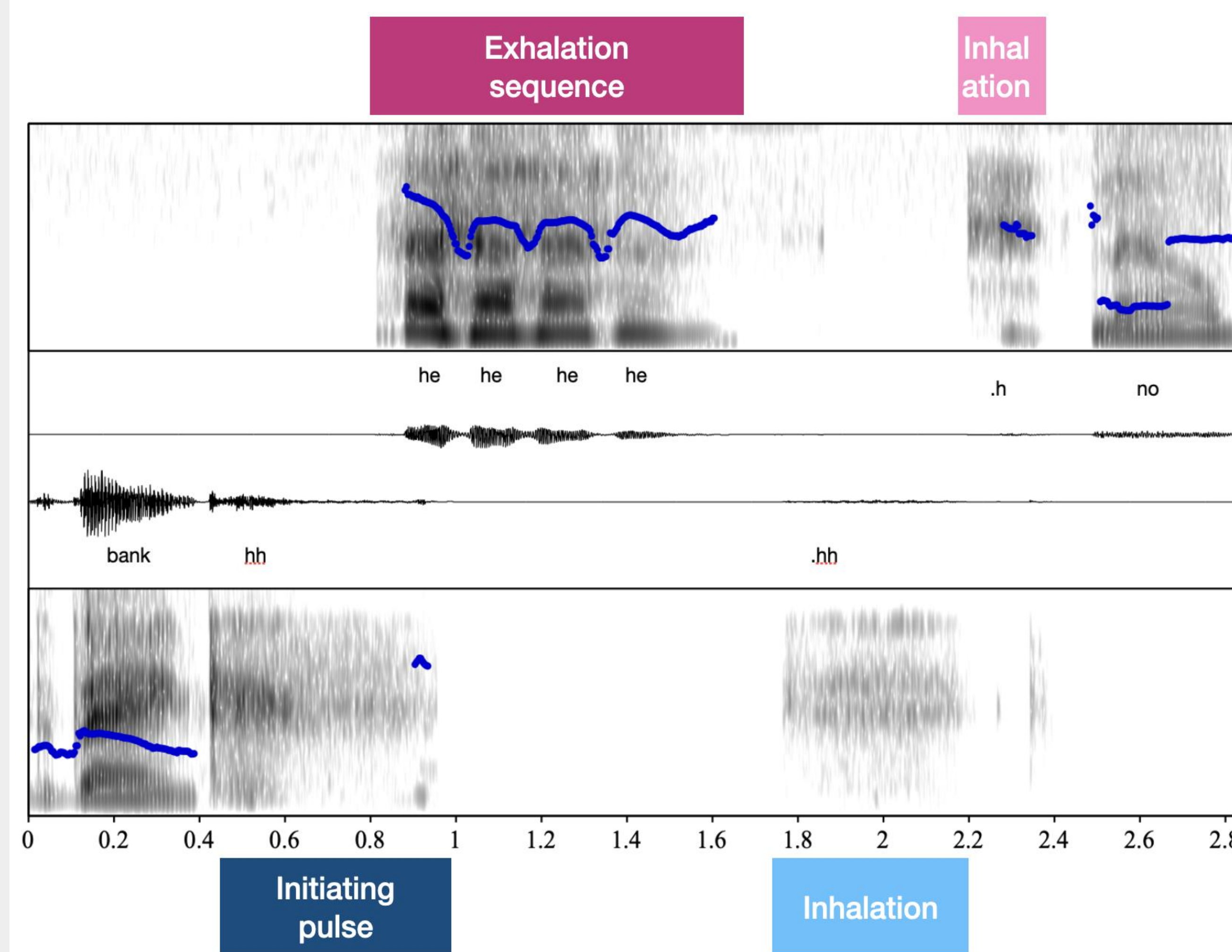
Joining in; simultaneous ending. CallHome en_4157 135-152 constantly with K

01 B: well now she's with Keith.
02 A: .h yeah. constantly. hh [hehehe [.he [.h
03 B: [he he [.hh [I'm so happy for
04 her though.=he's such a nice guy,



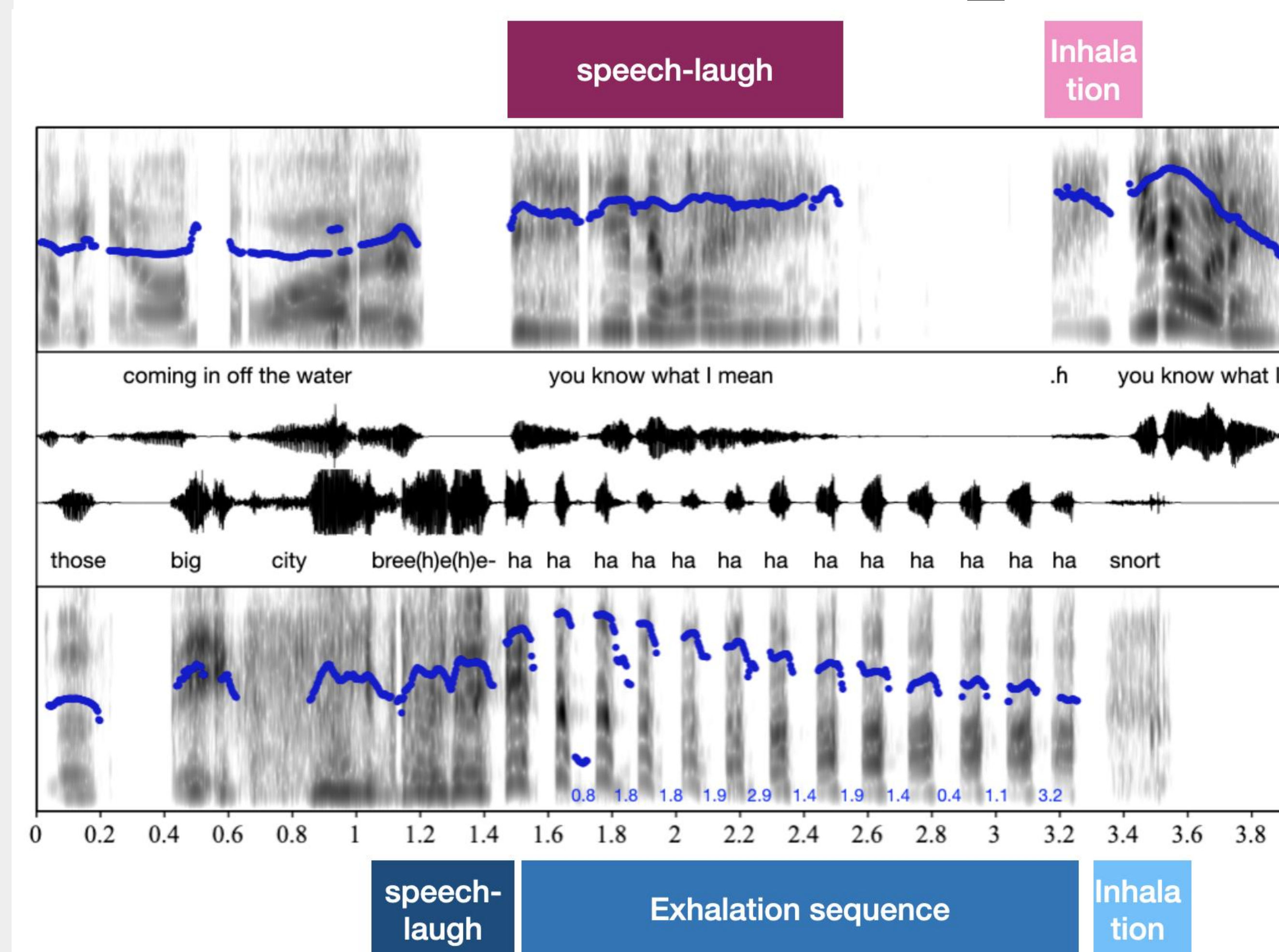
Mirthless laughter. CallHome en_4234.454-476. sound like the bank

01 B: yeah I know the feeling.= [I'm
02 A: [but once you're in vacation
03 mode, it's sort of like (.) well why shouldn't I.=
04 =I only- I have the vacation, (.) it's just you know, the
05 time. and a[nd the money. and what is money for.
06 B: [true] ((distortion and echo))
07 (0.6)
07 B: .th right. Hhh
08 A: [so I [I have to make (a/up)]
09 B: [.h [the ba- you s-]
10 B: you sound like you're the bankhh
11 A: ha ha ha ha
12 B: .hh
13 A: .h °no;° but I have to make up my mind here by Friday,
14 because that's (.) when I can hold my ticket to.=
15 =so I thought I could get a ticket.



'Melody' as a projection device. CallHome en_4595.296-351 big city breezes

16 A: <<yawn> .h you'll get like those big
17 (0.7)
18 A: <<yawn> those big c::ity breezes,>
19 A: li[ke coming in off the water?]
20 B: [£ those big city bree- £]
21 B: [ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha
22 A: [<
 £you know what I mean?£>]
23 B: ha ha ha ha [ha (snort)
24 A: [.h [£ you know what I [mean, right?£
25 B: £[yes I do;£?'



Conclusion

- Laughter has an **internal structure** with recognisable **component parts**: used to manage laughter, and project its ending
- Features of laughter & their positioning linked to respiratory cycle
- Lots of phonetic variation of component parts: most richly varied in exhalation phase ('middle' part)
- Some of the phonetic design of laughter needs to be explained in its sequential context, rather than as generic indexical functions
- Each phase of laughter has different **phonetic affordances**: features which in themselves offer possibilities for social action
- Our approach broadens the repertoire of available explanations for variability, and treats the analysis of **laughter as an inherently intersubjective achievement**