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### **Accounting for phonetic differences between male and female voices**

The voice is one of the most important ways in which a listener identifies and a speaker defines gender. Although many of the phonetic differences between the male and female voice are well-known, eg. pitch, formant frequencies, voice quality, it is less clear what the source of many of these differences is, i.e. whether they are biophysical inevitabilities or learned behaviours. In this talk I shall examine gender-specific differences in sound quality and sound duration which are still begging adequate explanations.