

## **Discourse markers and filled pauses: how disfluent are they?**

Discourse markers such as *you know* or *well* have been considered signs of poor language performance (“fillers”, “smallwords”) for a long time. Those days are over. The large body of corpus-based and, more recently, psycholinguistic research into their behavior has highlighted the many benefits they present for production and comprehension, showing in particular their discourse-structuring and forewarning effects. It remains that (some) discourse markers have a special connection with disfluencies and are often perceived as such. A similar ambivalence has been found for filled pauses (*uh*, *uhm*), either treated as symptoms or signals, or even as words in their own right. Discourse markers and filled pauses indeed share several characteristics, which makes them prone to navigate the continuum between fluency and disfluency. The question thus arises: how disfluent are they? In this talk, I will explore the fluency-disfluency continuum and answer this question through a cognitive-functional perspective supported by corpus-based and experimental evidence on English and French data.