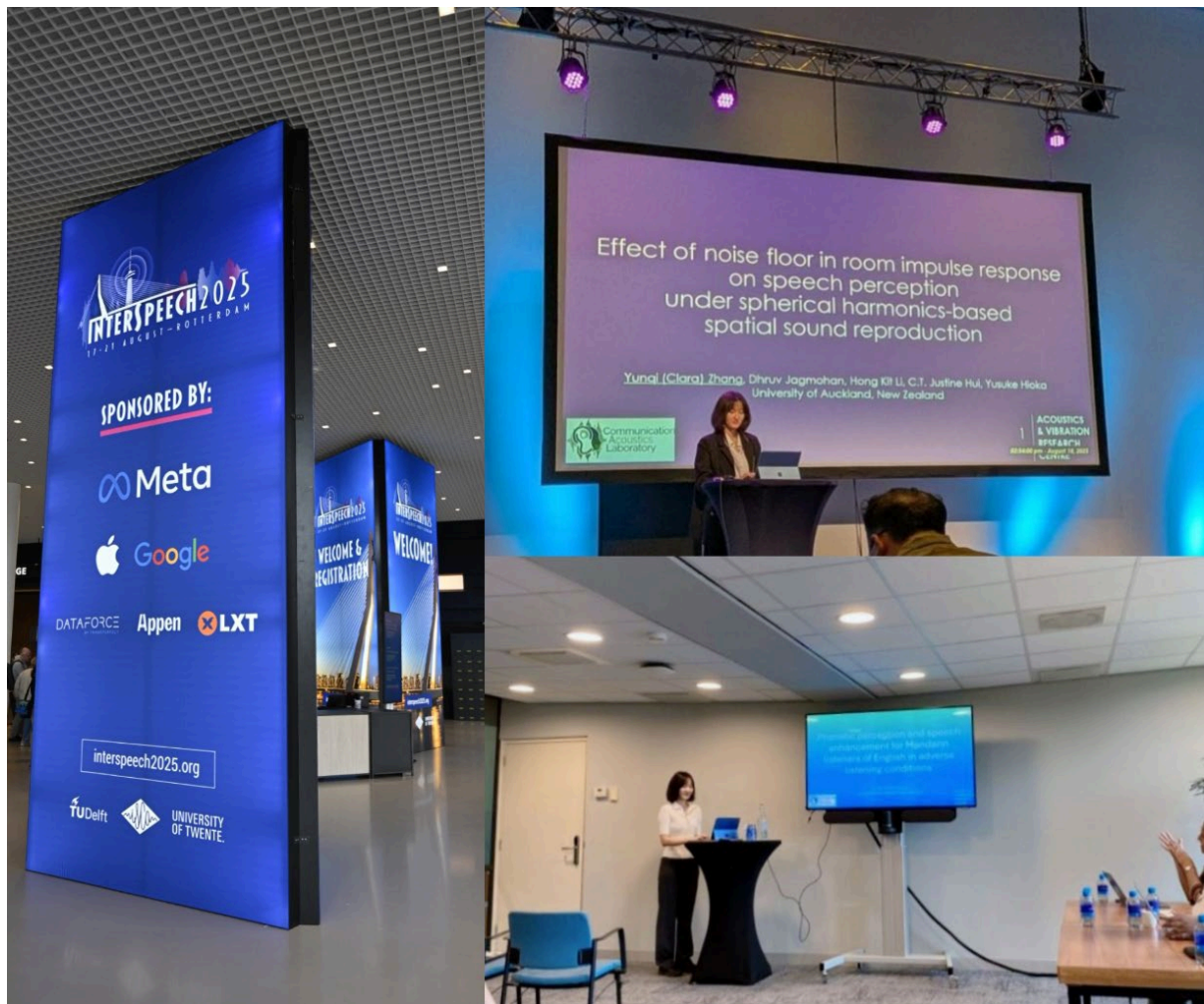


I had the honour of attending Interspeech 2025 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, to present our work. This was my first time participating in Interspeech, one of the leading international conferences in the field of speech technology, and it was especially exciting as the final conference of my PhD journey. After a 24-hour flight with a transit in Guangzhou, China, I arrived in Amsterdam on August 14th.

On August 16th, I attended the Doctoral Consortium, a dedicated event for PhD students at various stages of their research. Each participant presented their ongoing work and future plans, followed by feedback from eight distinguished researchers. I received constructive and insightful feedback from the mentors, which will be particularly valuable in refining my thesis.



The main conference commenced on August 17th and spanned five days, featuring a comprehensive programme of oral and poster sessions, keynote lectures, and survey talks. The scale of Interspeech was truly impressive, bringing together thousands of researchers from across the globe and covering the full breadth of speech science and technology.

My own presentation, “*Effect of Noise Floor in Room Impulse Response on Speech Perception under Spherical Harmonics-Based Spatial Sound Reproduction*”, took place

on August 18th, the opening day of the conference. Presenting on the first day was both exciting and rewarding, as it allowed me to share my work early on and subsequently engage in discussions that were informed by my talk.

Throughout the week, I attended a wide range of sessions related to speech enhancement, non-native speech production and perception, and speech technology evaluation. These talks provided valuable insights into the latest methodological innovations and experimental findings, helping me to situate my research within broader disciplinary trends.

Equally valuable was the opportunity to engage with other attendees. I had conversations with fellow PhD candidates as well as senior researchers, exchanging ideas on experimental design, analysis, and theoretical frameworks. These interactions not only broadened my academic perspective but also inspired several new directions that I intend to explore in the next stages of my research. Particularly, I found the research "*Influence of proficiency and L2 experience on dynamic spectral cue utilization in L2 vowel perception and production*" is closely related to my own research. The findings offered useful insights that will directly inform the development of my thesis. In addition, I attended most of the keynotes and survey talks, which broadened my understanding of the field of speech science and its ongoing evolution.

Attending the conference also deepened my awareness of the importance of inclusive and equitable approaches in speech research. As a PhD candidate in New Zealand, working with a less-studied variety of English, I was particularly inspired to reflect on how research can better account for diverse linguistic backgrounds. This experience has motivated me to continue investigating listener perception across language groups and to pursue my research in ways that promote greater inclusivity within the field.