



Language Science Colloquium 2017-18

Monday, May 21st,

Time: 2:00-3:30 pm

Location: Humanities Gateway, Room 1010

Refreshments provided.

Kara Morgan-Short, University of Illinois at Chicago

The neurocognitive processing of late-learned second language: The role of external and internal factors

Second language acquisition is a complex and dynamic process that is influenced by multiple factors, including the individual cognitive abilities that learners bring to the second language learning task and the context under which the second language is learned. Understanding the independent effect of each of these factors, however, is not sufficient. We must come to understand the interplay between them. This talk examines the interplay of individual differences and contexts of learning by presenting findings from a series of studies that employ both behavioral and electrophysiological methods to shed light on how learners' cognitive abilities may play out differently in different contexts of learning for second language development and processing. Results from the artificial and natural language studies that are presented largely converge to suggest that the role of cognitive abilities in the second language learning task may be moderated by the condition under which the learner is exposed to the second language. These findings are considered within the larger task of examining the multiplicity of factors and their dynamic effect on second language acquisition.

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