



The Contribution of Statistical Learning to Language Acquisition

Prof. Denise Hsien WU
National Central University

Date: October 12, 2021 (Tuesday)
Time: 4:30pm - 6:15pm (Hong Kong Time, UTC +8)
***Seminar will be conducted via ZOOM**

The Zoom Meeting details will be provided on 11 October 2021



Prior registration is required

Abstract

Proficient language users presumably rely on sensitivity to probabilistic statistics of different parts in words, and different words in sentences, to develop the knowledge of regularity “hidden” in different linguistic levels after extensive exposure to countless exemplars of inputs. Following such reasoning, the recent research in my lab has focused on the contribution of statistical learning to language processing and acquisition. Specifically, through the approach that examines the relationship between individual differences in domain-general (statistical learning) and domain-specific (language) abilities, empirical investigations have revealed the functional and neuronal effects of statistical learning on learning to read words and learning to comprehend sentences. Future research on language users with diverse backgrounds of typologically different languages would further elucidate the potentially reciprocal relationship between statistical learning and language acquisition/processing.

Speaker

Professor Denise Wu received a PhD degree in Cognitive Psychology (specialized in Cognitive Neuroscience) from Rice University in the U.S. in 2003. After working in the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience and the Department of Neurology at the University of Pennsylvania in the U.S. as a post-doctoral researcher between 2003 and 2005, Dr. Wu became the faculty of the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience at National Central University in Taiwan and has worked in this institute since.

Dr. Denise Wu devotes herself to cutting-edge research on cognitive neuroscience and to the promotion of scientific knowledge to society, especially to the education community. Dr. Wu is one of the founding members and currently the chairperson of the Taiwan Society of Cognitive Neuroscience. She is also an associate editor of *Journal of Neurolinguistics*, *Frontiers of Psychology: Language Sciences*, *Current Directions in Psychological Science*. Dr. Wu has received the Junior Research Investigators Award from Academia Sinica (2012) and the Taiwan Outstanding Young Female Scientist Award from Wu Chien-Shiung Education Foundation (2014). She has been elected as a Young Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) in 2014, and as a Fellow of the Psychonomic Society in 2015 and of the Association for Psychological Science in 2016.

All are Welcome