



The role of linguistic input in early language development

Linguistics Seminar

Date: February 27, 2018 (Tuesday)
Time: 4:30pm - 6:15pm
Venue: Swire Hall 1, Fung King Hey Building,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

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Western Sydney University



Abstract

During the first years of their life, infants face the challenging task of learning their native language. Their early experience with language mainly consists of the speech produced by the people surrounding them, especially their parents, who they can hear even while they are still in the womb. The special type of speech, infant directed speech, that parents use when addressing their infants is not just a playful way of engaging and comforting their babies. Instead, early parent-infant interactions have been proposed to be a catalyst for early emotional, social, and linguistic development. In this talk, I will present recent evidence from perceptual, interactional, and neurophysiological studies to explore the role of early linguistic input in early language development in typically developing infants, but also infants whose experiences with language are different due to bilingual language acquisition or a sensory or cognitive disorder.

Speaker

Dr. Marina Kalashnikova, BA (Summa Cum Laude) Linguistics, MA Linguistics University of Texas at El Paso, PhD Psychology Lancaster University. Marina joined the MARCS Institute in 2013 as a postdoctoral fellow and currently holds the position of Researcher in Infancy Studies and MARCS BabyLab Leader. Her work focuses on the projects Seeds of Literacy and HEARing CRC where she investigates perceptual and linguistic development in infants at children who are at risk for developing sensory or cognitive impairments. Her other research interests include early lexical acquisition in monolingual and bilingual infants and the effects of bilingual first language acquisition and early second language learning on the development of linguistic skills, and the advantages that these experiences represent for early socio-cognitive maturation.

Enquiries:

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