



香港中文大學

CUHK

語言學及現代語言系

Department of Linguistics and  
Modern Languages

# Structural Priming as a Window into Learning Mechanisms in Diverse Learner Populations

**Prof. Vicky CHONDROGIANNI**  
The University of Edinburgh



22

April  
TUESDAY

**Date:** April 22, 2025 (Tuesday)  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. (Hong Kong Time, UTC +8)  
**Venue:** Y C Liang Hall, LHC G04 (G/F),  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

## Abstract

Structural priming is an experimental paradigm that relies on the speaker's tendency to reuse a structure they have just been exposed to. Although it has been extensively used with monolingual and bilingual adult speakers, its recent applications in developmental research have shown that it can potentially offer valuable insights into children's ability to process linguistic input and to turn input into linguistic knowledge (also known as 'uptake').

In this talk, I present structural priming studies with neurotypical bilingual children and children with language disorders speaking typologically diverse languages (Mandarin Chinese, Welsh) that investigate how linguistic input interacts with children's uptake ability. We show that structural priming can reveal important differences in the learning mechanisms underpinning language development in neurotypical and neurodivergent child groups. We also explore the clinical diagnostic potential of this experimental tool.

## Speaker

Professor Vicky Chondrogianni is a developmental linguist. Her research focuses on morphosyntactic development in neurotypical bilingual children and children with developmental language disorders using experimental methods. She investigates language development in bilingual children speaking typologically diverse languages, including Greek, English, Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese and Korean.

Professor Chondrogianni read Linguistics and Classics at the University of Athens, Greece, and also obtained an MA in Translation studies. She then went on to receive an MPhil in English and Applied Linguistics and a PhD in Second Language Acquisition from the University of Cambridge, UK. Prior to joining the University of Edinburgh in 2014, she held research and teaching positions at Bangor University (UK), Aalborg University (Denmark) and the University of Reading (UK). She has also carried out research visits at City University of New York (USA), where she is currently affiliated faculty at the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, CUNY Graduate Center.

All Are Welcome

Enquiries

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