



Reading Processing Among Hong Kong Deaf Signers: Findings from Eye Movements and ERPs

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

Registration Deadline:
12:00nn of 28 March 2021 (Sunday) – Hong Kong Time
The Zoom Meeting details will be provided on 29 March 2021



Prior registration is required

Abstract

Literacy education for deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHH) students has had limited success in helping DHH students attain high levels of reading skill. Many DHH students graduate high school with literacy levels well behind those of their hearing peers. Understanding the unique cognitive characteristics of deaf readers, as well as the factors that distinguish deaf readers with higher and lower reading levels, can help educators better address these unequal outcomes with appropriate interventions.

In this talk, I will draw on findings from a series of eye-tracking and ERP experiments conducted at the Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies (at CUHK) to give an overview of the unique characteristics of Hong Kong deaf readers. From this research, we will see that the cognitive processes underlying reading in deaf individuals are complex and involve both sign- and spoken-phonological codes. Furthermore, we will see evidence that lower reading fluency levels in deaf individuals cannot be attributed to deficits in phonological coding ability alone. Rather, reading deficits correlate with reduced efficiency in orthographic, phonological, and message-level processing. Finally, I will discuss how early sign language acquisition may be beneficial to deaf individuals in terms of reading processing and possible implications of this research for deaf education in Hong Kong.

Speaker

Philip Thierfelder received his Ph.D. in Applied and Educational Linguistics from the University of Melbourne (Australia). His research has focused on investigating cognitive processing in deaf readers using eye-tracking and ERP experiments. Before his doctoral studies in Australia, he worked as a research assistant and language program officer at The Chinese University of Hong Kong's Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies.

All are Welcome