Department of
Linguistics and Modern Languages
語言學及現代語言系

Neurocognitive Reorganization of Language Comprehension in the Aging Mind

Prof. Chia Lin LEE
National Taiwan University

Date: April 12, 2022 (Tuesday)
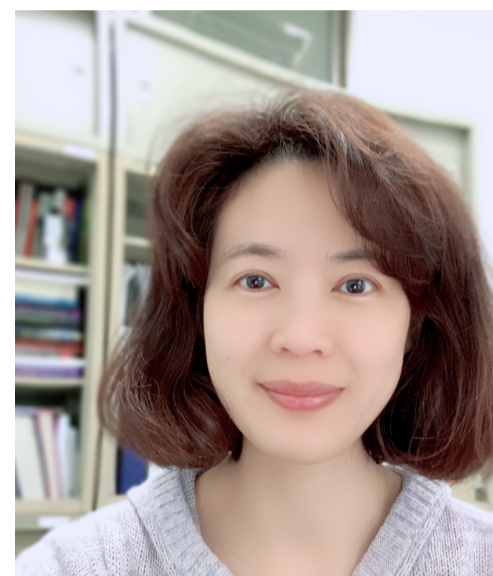Time: 4:30pm - 6:15pm (Hong Kong Time, UTC +8)
            *Seminar will be conducted via ZOOM

Prior registration is required
The Zoom Meeting details will be provided on 11 April 2022

Abstract

Normal aging brings increased richness in knowledge and experience as well as declines in cognitive abilities. Language comprehension, however, occupies an unique position in cognitive aging research. Although certain language tasks become harder with age, especially when resources are heavily taxed, older adults report little change in their ability to engage in conversations, read novels or the newspaper, and use language in everyday situations. In this talk, I will review some age-related reorganization of neurocognitive resources for language processing at the group level demonstrated in controlled laboratory experiments. In particular, I will point out that, despite the overall tendency toward decline, older adults are also tremendously diverse with respect to how their language processing is impacted by aging. I will discuss characteristics indicated in the recent literature that differentiate a subset of older adults whose processing patterns more closely resemble that of young adults. These discussions could help provide a window into cognitive skills and abilities that may counteract processing constraints imposed by age and contribute to promoting a rather active reading comprehension strategy among older adults.

Speaker

Chia-Lin Lee is an associate professor in the Graduate Institute of Linguistics, a jointly appointed associate professor in the Department of Psychology and the Graduate Institute of Brain and Mind Sciences, and a fulltime faculty member at the Neurobiology and Cognitive Neuroscience Center at the National Taiwan University. Chia-Lin holds an M.A. in Linguistics from the National Taiwan Normal University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA. Chia-lin's research investigates the cognitive-neural bases of human language, with a particular emphasis on the characterization of systematic variations among individuals. Her recent topics include influences of advancing age on language processing, factors modulating language lateralization, language processing in second languages, and neurocognitive reorganization involved in scenarios when language processing is compromised. Research in her lab uses the Event-Related Potential (ERP) technique in conjunction with a wide array of behavioral or cognitive neuroscience methods, including eye tracking, Diffusion Tension Imaging (DTI), and Magnetoencephalography (MEG).

All are Welcome