

Psychology Colloquium / Advanced Seminar in Psychology

An introduction to cross-linguistic language acquisition

Dr Heather Winskel
Discipline of Psychology
School of Health and Human Sciences
Southern Cross University

2:30 pm, Friday, 12 August 2011
Lecture Hall D350 (Coffs Harbour campus)
Video-linked to Lecture Hall P158 (Lismore campus) and to
A223 (Tweed Heads Gold Coast Riverside campus)

All welcome

About the colloquium. In this presentation, an introductory overview of cross-linguistic language acquisition will initially be given. Then, the relationship between language and cognition will be discussed. In particular, we will revisit the age-old question: Does the language we speak shape or influence how we perceive the world around? We will examine some cross-linguistic research that has been conducted on Thai and English. The latest research uses eye tracking technology to empirically test claims made about the influences of language on perception. This also enables us to examine the interface between language production and perception from a cross-linguistic perspective.

About the speaker. Dr Heather Winskel is a Senior lecturer in Psychology at SCU. She joined SCU in February this year. Her research focus is predominantly in the area of language acquisition and reading research, particularly on languages and scripts in the S/SE Asian region. Prior to that, she worked at UWS. She holds a B.Sc. from Sussex University and a PhD from Durham University, U.K. in cross-linguistic language acquisition. The fieldwork for her PhD was conducted in a Lisu village in the North of Thailand. Previously, she has worked at Durham, Edinburgh, and Birmingham Universities, at the Open University in the U.K., and at the Prince of Songkhla, Chiangmai, and Chulalongkorn Universities in Thailand. She is currently the chief editor of the *Handbook of South and Southeast Asian Psycholinguistics* with Cambridge University Press. Over 50 international experts in psycholinguistics are contributing chapters.

About the speaker's host. Professor Robert O'Shea, robert.oshea@scu.edu.au

About Psychology Colloquia. See www.scu.edu.au/psychologycolloquia