

Advances in Cognitive Development
Prof. Laura Bosch
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(7th November- 5th December; Thursdays 10:00-13:00)
 Seminar Room, *Departament de Psicologia Bàsica,*
Facultat de Psicologia, Edifici Ponent, planta 5.

Description:

This course is intended to cover a range of key topics in early cognitive and perceptual development, with a special focus on the early processes in speech perception that are fundamental to language acquisition. From a broad information-processing perspective, core knowledge and some basic mechanisms of perception, attention, encoding, categorizing and learning that are central to cognitive and linguistic development in early infancy will be discussed.

Content:

1. Topics in infant perception and cognition
 - a. The physical world: object perception
 - b. The others: social cognition and language development
2. Sounds and language input: properties of the speech signal
 - a. Speech perception abilities, sound categories and perceptual narrowing
 - b. Finding words in fluent speech: Pre-lexical strategies in speech segmentation
3. Word mapping, word learning and word recognition
4. Developmental models of speech perception and phonological processing
5. Measures of attention and methods in infancy research

Methodology:

In each session a general presentation of the topic will be offered, followed by a group discussion and an analysis of a specific text/short paper directly related to the content of the session.

Language of the course: English

Evaluation:

Evaluation will be based on regular participation in class discussions (40%) and a written essay (60%) on a selected topic from the program based on a published research paper. Selection of the paper and structure/extension of the essay will be individually discussed and agreed upon during the course.

General readings:

Diehl, R.L., Lotto, A.J. & Holt, L.L. (2004). Speech perception. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 55, 149-179.

Gervain, J. & Mehler, J. (2010). Speech perception and language acquisition in the first year of life. *Annu. Rev. Psychol.*, 61:191–218.

Goswami, U. (2008). *Cognitive development*. New York: Psychology Press.

Kuhl, P. K., Conboy, B. T., Coffey-Corina, S., Padden, D., Rivera-Gaxiola, M. & Nelson, T. (2008). Phonetic learning as a pathway to language: new data and native language magnet theory expanded (NLM-e). *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 363, 979-1000.

Oakes, L.M., Cashon, C.H., Casasola, M. & Rakison, D.H. (2011). *Infant perception and cognition*. Oxford: OUP.

Werker, J.F. & Curtin, S. (2005). PRIMIR: A developmental framework of infant speech processing. *Language Learning and Development*, 1(2), 197-234.