

The Center for Multilingual & Intercultural Communication

The MIC Distinguished Lecture Series

Bilingual Executive Control in Avoiding Language Mixing Despite Brain Damage

Friday, November 13, 2015, 2-3 pm

Place: Humanities 2001 (Poetry Center)

There is now substantial literature on Executive Control advantages in older bilingual adults (as compared to older monolinguals) that seem to derive from the bilingual's life-long practice of keeping two languages separate or intermixed as appropriate. If the brain regions implicated in aphasia (difficulties in language use linked to damage to core language regions in the brain) do not impair Executive Control, then we would expect bilinguals with aphasia to retain their ability to determine which language to employ with individual interlocutors. Yet there have been reports of excessive mixing in bilinguals with aphasia. Our data from Kannada-English speakers with aphasia (Paplikar et al., in preparation) argue that despite increased language mixing, bilinguals with aphasia employ the same patterns of mixing and avoiding mixing as bilinguals without aphasia.



Loraine Obler

Loraine K. Obler is a Distinguished Professor in the Programs for Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences and Linguistics at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her research includes articles and chapters on her interests in neurolinguistics: bilingualism and the brain, talented and challenging L2 acquisition, cross-language study of aphasia, and the language-processing changes associated with healthy aging and the dementias. Her books include *The Bilingual Brain: Neuropsychological and Neurolinguistic Aspects of Bilingualism* (with Martin Albert), *Language and the Brain* (with Kris Gjerlow) and *Bilingualism Across the Lifespan* (edited with Kenneth Hyltenstam).

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The Center for Multilingual & Intercultural Communication (MIC) is an interdisciplinary research center where applied linguists, linguists, psychologists, communication scholars, education specialists and scholars of allied disciplines explore multilingual repertoires as rich resources in the context of global mobility and technological advancement.

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