

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

14-15 October 2021, Institute of Multilingualism, Fribourg

Multilingualism: Acquisition, Education, and Society
University of Fribourg | Institute of Multilingualism

Workshop: Individual Differences in Language Learning

Dr. Florian Hintz, Max Planck Institute Nijmegen

Organizers: Prof. Dr. Raphael Berthele, Université de Fribourg &
Prof. Dr. Narly Golestani, Universität Wien

In this workshop, we address the long-standing issue of different abilities in learning (first, additional) languages. We discuss past and ongoing research projects. The workshop is intended to be informal, with brief talks as impulses and sufficient time to discuss concepts, material, tasks, data processing, and other questions of PhD students and other researchers.

Questions we will address are, among others:

Conceptual/theoretical:

- Individual differences (ID): language-specific or by domain-general factors influences?
- Aptitude in the brain, and relative influences of nature vs nurture
- Multilingualism and language aptitude
- Dyslexia

Methodological/practical:

- Behavioral measures of aptitude: What are the current instruments available? (MLAT, PLAB, MULTAPP, LLAMA, etc.)
- Handling multivariable projects statistically: Techniques for analyses (e.g. factor analysis and SEM, multiple regression, among other procedures)
- Online testing: issues, pros and cons

PhD programme on Multilingualism

The event is part of the doctoral programme Multilingualism: Acquisition, Education, and Society. It is organized by the Institute of Multilingualism and the study domain Multilingualism and foreign languages at the University of Fribourg and carried out in close collaboration with the Center for the Study of Language and Society of the University of Bern and with professors from the University of Lausanne.

Participation

Doctoral students of the programme's partner universities (Fribourg, Berne, and Lausanne) are eligible to participate. Students from other Swiss universities may participate depending on places available.

Registration

To register, please contact Dr. Philippe Humbert (philippe.humbert@unifr.ch) by Oct. 8, 2021.

Venue

Institute of Multilingualism, Murtengasse 24 /
Rue de Morat 24, 1700 Fribourg, Room K1.03

➤ www.institute-multilingualism.ch

About Florian Hintz

Florian Hintz is scientific staff and project coordinator at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics. Broadly speaking, his research interests center around the mechanisms that underlie language production and comprehension. However, the focus of his recent work has been on individual differences in native language skills and other cognitive abilities. For the past five years, he has been coordinating a large-scale project concerned with charting variability in language skills and examining the neural and genetic bases of this variability.

Florian obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Linguistics from Leipzig University, and conducted his doctoral studies at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics. He was a postdoctoral researcher at the Center for Language Studies at Radboud University before returning to the Max Planck Institute. Next to his research on individual differences, he has conducted projects on prediction during language comprehension and on speech comprehension in noisy environments.

About Narly Golestani

Narly Golestani is Associate Professor, head of the Brain and Language Lab (www.brainandlanguage.org) at the Cognitive Science Hub of the University of Vienna, Austria, and at the Department of Psychology at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. She obtained her PhD in Clinical Psychology from McGill University (Montreal, Canada), and then did post-docs at INSERM (Orsay, France), and at the Institute for Cognitive Neuroscience at UCL (London, UK). Her research makes use of a wide range of methods, including functional and structural imaging, computational modelling of brain function, computational morphometry, machine learning, advanced statistical procedures and neuropsychology, along with more conventional experimental psycholinguistics and psychophysics approaches. These approaches are used to advance our understanding of the brain and language processing at low (i.e. auditory, phonetic) to high (e.g. multilingualism, language control) levels of processing, in the context of healthy individual differences, language and auditory expertise, and language disorder.

Programm

Thursday, October 14

12.30-13.30	Lunch buffet
13.30-13.40	Introduction by R. Berthele
13.40-14.00	Short talk by N. Golestani
14.00-14.45	Discussion
14.45-15.00	Coffee break
15.00-15.20	Short talk by R. Berthele
15.20-16.15	Discussion
16.15-17.15	Break
17.15-18.45	Public lecture by F. Hintz

Friday, October 15

09.00-09.20	Short talk by F. Hintz
09.20-10.15	Discussion
10.15-10.45	Coffee break
11.00-12.00	Final discussion

Covid-19

Due to the uncertainty of the evolution concerning Covid-19, changes in the programme or in the sanitary conditions of participation may apply. Please consult our website for potential updates:

➡ www.institute-multilingualism.ch