

# PUBLIC LECTURE

Thursday, 14 October 2021, 5:15 – 6:45 pm

Institute of Multilingualism | University | HEP|PH FR  
Rue de Morat 24, 1700 Fribourg, room K0.02

## Individual differences in language ability: Quantifying the relationships between linguistic experience, general cognitive skills and linguistic processing skills. A new tool and preliminary data

**Florian Hintz**

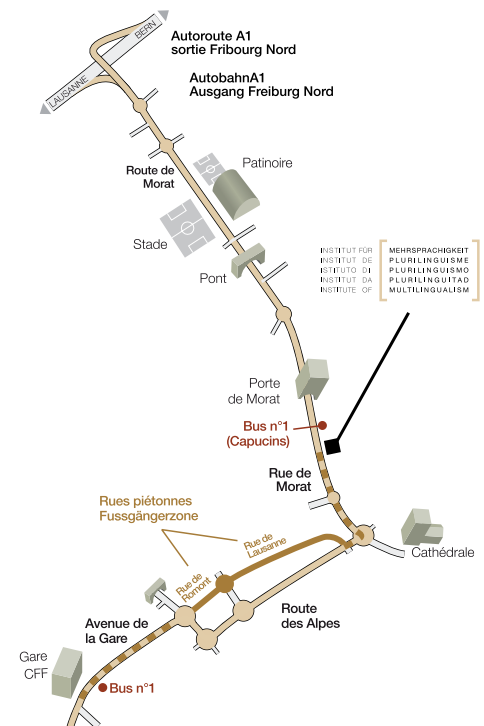
Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics

### Abstract

Most people acquire their native language effortlessly, yet individuals differ greatly in how they use it. Language ability strongly influences people's functioning in society and is an important predictor of professional success. Although the question 'what makes someone a good language user?' has intrigued scholars for a long time, little is known about the principal dimensions of language skills. One reason for the lack of research has been the lack of suitable tools for assessing native language skills. During this talk, I will present an ongoing project concerned with mapping out the principal dimensions of language skills. That is, I will present our recently developed 'Individual Differences in Language Skills' (IDLaS) battery including tests measuring word and sentence production and comprehension skills, linguistic knowledge/experience, as well as general cognitive skills (e.g., processing speed, working memory) involved in linguistic processing. I will present data from 170 Dutch participants who completed the battery in the lab and data from 170 participants who completed the battery at home, via the internet on their own laptops. I will end on discussing some issues related to online testing and make practical recommendations based on our experiences.

👉 **Lecture in English**

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## 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.

**More on F. Hintz:** <https://www.mpi.nl/people/hintz-florian>

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