

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

The Conference Planning Committee,
Shannon Shi, Nancy Cano, Raul DeLeon,
Paula Matthews, Sophia He, Leticia Lopez

Would like to thank:

Office of the President
Office of the VP of Instruction
Dean of the School of Arts & Languages
The Department of Languages
Humanities Institute
Committee of Global Awareness
Mesa Communication Service
VISTA Higher Learning Inc.
Cheng & Tsui

and all our colleagues who teach languages and humanities, adjunct and contract instructors, within and outside the district, who contribute to making the profession more vibrant, worthwhile, and inspiring.

Handouts for all conference presentations can be found on the San Diego Mesa College Languages Department web page: <http://www.sdmesa.edu/languages/conferences.cfm>



A vibrant, abstract graphic for a conference. It features a central spiral that transitions through colors: purple, green, yellow, orange, and blue. The background is filled with various characters from different alphabets, including Latin, Greek, and Chinese. The text 'The Human Brain & Language Learning' is written in a white, sans-serif font across the orange and yellow sections. At the top, the date and time are listed: 'Friday March 23, 2012 8:30am-1:30pm'. At the bottom right, the location is given: 'Flex #66171 Room G-101'.

Friday
March 23, 2012
8:30am-1:30pm

The Human Brain
& Language Learning

Flex #66171
Room G-101

9:00 - 10:00am Workshop 1:

The Psychology and Neuroscience of Language: A View from the Left Hemisphere

Presenter: Jaye Van Kirk, M.A. Professor of Psychology, San Diego Mesa College, Department of Behavioral Sciences
Language acquisition is influenced by a complex interaction of factors: neural, psychological and cultural factors. This presentation provides an overview of brain systems related to language processing for understanding spoken words, speaking and reading. Coverage of research from Psychological Sciences highlights factors related to developmental processes, as well as cultural factors influencing language acquisition and processing.

10:10 - 11:10am Workshop 2:

The Neurobiology of Language Acquisition: Meaning & Discourse

Presenter: Anna E. Holt, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Scholar, UCI, Brain Circuits Laboratory
It is well-known that children master the phonology and syntax of a non-native language much more readily than adults. While they have this comparative advantage, they also show deficits in discourse processing even in their first language. These deficits last throughout childhood. Adults rarely have such trouble with a first language but often have difficulty applying these skills in a non-native language. I will discuss recent neuroimaging work from children and adults in our lab that sheds light on brain networks used in "higher-order" language. How might what we are learning about the neurobiology of language processing, specifically in discourse, eventually help adults to acquire a second language?

11:20am - 12:20pm Workshop 3:

You are what you speak (or sign): Effects of Language Acquisition on Brain Anatomy and Physiology

Presenter: Robert Kluender, Ph.D., Psycholinguist, UCSD, Department of Linguistics
In this talk I review evidence that (1) students should be exposed to second languages early, but (2) we shouldn't worry if we get them late, as the adult brain is more plastic than we thought. Therefore, (3) a lot more is getting through than we think – the brain learns even when students appear not to. In fact, (4) students learn things they're not even consciously taught. Thus we can all stop fretting about which teaching method is "the right one," because if we regularly provide our students with consistent language input, the brain will simplify organize itself around it.

Program

8:30 - 9:00am

Breakfast and Welcome Remarks

Pamela T. Luster, President, San Diego Mesa College, Ed.D.
Jonathan Fohrman, Dean of Arts and Languages

9:00 - 10:00am – Workshop 1

**The Psychology and Neuroscience of Language:
A View from the Left Hemisphere**

Jaye Van Kirk, M.A., Professor of Psychology, San Diego
San Diego Mesa College, Department of Behavioral Sciences

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Meaning & Discourse**

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You are what you speak (or sign):

Effects of Language Acquisition on Brain Anatomy and Physiology

Robert Kluender, Ph.D., Psycholinguist, UCSD, Department of Linguistics

12:30 - 1:30pm – Lunch

Catered by San Diego Mesa College Culinary Arts/Culinary Management Program