



A summary update of events, activities and news

News & events

Language Sciences research symposium for ECRs

The first language sciences symposium dedicated to work by early-careers researchers was attended by over 50 PhD students and postdocs (19 June). The event was chaired and co-organised by Dr Andrew Caines, with talks by Dr Anastasia Klimovich-Gray (Clinical Neurosciences), Dr Paul Nulty (CRASSH), Dr Dieuwerke Rutgers (Education & MEITS project), Alexander Kuhnle (Computer Science & Technology) and Dr Ana Pérez (Theoretical & Applied Linguistics). Feedback has been very positive, and we plan to run a similar event next year.

New project—*Giving Voice to Digital Democracies*:

A new project *Giving Voice to Digital Democracies: The Social Impact of Artificially Intelligent Communications Technology* will begin at CRASSH's Centre for the Humanities and Social Change in October 2018. The humanities-led project brings together experts from linguistics, philosophy, speech technology, computer science, psychology, sociology and political theory to develop design objectives that can guide the creation of more ethical and trustworthy AICT systems.

<http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/blog/post/meet-the-team-giving-voice-to-digital-democracies>

The Educated Brain research and policy showcase

On 24 April 2018 the ESRC-funded seminar series *The Educated Brain* concluded with a research and policy showcase hosted by Daniel Zeichner MP at the House of Commons, organised by Dr Dervila Glynn (Cambridge Neuroscience). The aim of the series was to share the latest research from educational neuroscience, psychology and linguistics with teachers and other education practitioners, and to consider potential implications for teacher training, best practice and educational policy. Topics included the importance of play, speech development, school readiness, bilingualism, dyslexia, the adolescent brain, autism and the effects of stress and deprivation. For more information visit

<https://www.languagesciences.cam.ac.uk/national-languages-policy>

Appointment of new MRC-CBU Director

Professor Matt Lambon-Ralph has been appointed as the new Director of the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit from 1

September 2018. His research and clinical activities focus on combining clinical and discovery science approaches to the exploration of memory and language, and to multiple disorders in these domains.

<https://www.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/blog/2018/04/the-mrc-cbu-welcomes-new-director-professor-matt-lambon-ralph/>

Leverhulme Trust award

The Leverhulme Trust has awarded funding for a new research project *Linguistic typology and learnability in second language* (PI Dr Dora Alexopoulou, Co-I Prof. Ianthi Tsimpli). The aim is to measure the impact of linguistic distance between L1 and L2 on the developmental trajectory of English L2 learners. It is hoped that this research will ultimately lead to the development of an empirically-based hierarchy for the degree of difficulty in acquiring certain linguistic features, informed by the distance between L1 and L2. The work will be based on data from EFCAMDAT, an open access corpus developed at the University of Cambridge with the support of the Isaac Newton Trust and in partnership with Education First, a global language education provider.

May 2018 Multilingualism and Wellbeing in UK—report

Last year the Cambridge Bilingualism Network ran a series of forums on the theme of 'multilingualism and wellbeing', which brought together practitioners and researchers from across linguistics, education and psychology (funded by the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account). CBN has produced a brief report, which can be downloaded from the language sciences website.

https://www.languagesciences.cam.ac.uk/CBN_Multilingualism_wellbeing_report.pdf

Cambridge Bilingualism Network has been nominated for the **2018 Vice Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Awards**. The winners will be announced on 9 July

Please get in touch if you have information to share in the next newsletter. (contact@languagesciences.cam.ac.uk).

Forthcoming Events

2018 Annual Symposium, *Language Sciences and Health*—13 November 2018 Save the date for a day of talks, posters and networking at Cripps Court, Magdalene College.

Speakers: Prof. Usha Goswami (Department of Psychology, Cambridge University), Prof. Courtney Norbury (Division of Psychology and Language Sciences, University College London) and Dr Sharath Srinivasan (Director of Africa's Voices Foundation, <http://www.africasvoices.org/>)

The call for posters opens in September. Keep an eye on the website and mailing list for updates.

Research Strategy Forum

Recent meetings

Education in Challenging Contexts (16 May), Convenor: Prof. Ianthi Tsimpli.

Language, Brains and Machines (27 June), Convenor: Dr Paula Buttery.

Forthcoming meetings

- *Language, Brains and Machines* research workshop (date in October TBC)
- Follow-up meeting on *Education in Challenging Contexts* (date TBC)

Forum meetings explore potential research collaboration across disciplines and groups to act as a driver for new research. To propose a topic for a future meeting please contact the IRC Directors. Summaries of previous meetings are published on the language sciences website and accessible via Raven authentication.

<https://www.languagesciences.cam.ac.uk/research-strategy-forum>

Visiting Scholars

- Dr Stephen Howe (Fukuoka University, Japan)
- Dr Kanako Komiya (Ibaraki University, Japan)
- Dr Shigenori Wakabayashi (Chuo University, Tokyo, Japan)

See our Visiting Scholars page for information about their research interests and to find out who else is in Cambridge this academic year.

<https://www.languagesciences.cam.ac.uk/directory/visiting-scholars>

If you have a visitor to your department who would like to be listed on this page, please let us know.

Research Incubator Fund

The projects funded under the latest call are:

Learning a language at your brain's pace (Dr Henriëtte Hendriks, Prof. Zoe Kourtzi, Dr Vicky Leong, Dr John Williams)

The research aims to shed further light on individual language learning, making use of neuroscientific research on the rhythm at which the brain processes information.

'Bhavishya Shakti'—Constructs of a novel education intervention in urban slums (Prof. Sumantra Ray, Prof. Ianthi Tsimpli, Dr Minha Rajput-Ray, Ms Ananya Ria Roy) This project addresses emerging themes around global challenges to both literacy and health, and provides an opportunity for interdisciplinary exchange between the NNEdPro Global Centre for Nutrition and Health (Ray et al) and Language Sciences to

assess the constructs and impacts of nutrition education for multilingual mothers in urban slums of Kolkata.

Neural encoding of semantic and syntactic information in bilingualism (Dr Mirjana Bozic, Andrea Olguin, Tristan Beckinschtein) This is follow-up research building on a previous collaborative project *Neural correlates of selective attention in bilingualism*, which was also supported by the Incubator Fund.

For the past two years the Incubator Fund has received matched funding under a pilot scheme to support SRIs and IRCs run by the Isaac Newton Trust. The Trust is reviewing the success of the programme, with the outcome expected soon. We hope to open a new call for proposals in the autumn. For a list of all the projects funded so far, visit our website:

<https://www.languagesciences.cam.ac.uk/language-sciences-research-incubator-fund>

Grant Applications

Please contact Jane if you would like a boilerplate paragraph about Cambridge Language Sciences to include as part of the case for support for a research grant application, or for other information relating to the IRC which might be useful in strengthening your proposal.

Data Protection—Update

The Site Privacy & Cookie Policies page on the language sciences website has been updated to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulation. If you have any questions or concerns about how your data is used, please get in touch.

<https://www.languagesciences.cam.ac.uk/privacy-and-cookie-policies>

Research Directory

Is your profile up to date? Please take a moment to edit your page. In particular, we are keen for people to list research collaborators from outside Cambridge to highlight external partnerships.

www.languagesciences.cam.ac.uk/directory/editing-your-profile

Keeping in Touch

Website The language sciences website is updated every week. Check out new events, jobs and funding opportunities.

www.languagesciences.cam.ac.uk

Language sciences mailing list (internal communications)

<https://lists.cam.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/ucam-language-sciences>

Language sciences on talks.cam:

<http://talks.cam.ac.uk/show/index/34176>

Twitter (external communications). Please follow us @CamLangsci.

Email: contact@languagesciences.cam.ac.uk or Jane Walsh, jaw75@cam.ac.uk

Cambridge Language Sciences is an Interdisciplinary Research Centre at the University of Cambridge. Our remit is to build on Cambridge's position as a centre of excellence for research and teaching in language sciences, and to create new opportunities for partnerships and collaboration.