DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES & LINGUISTICS

FREE PUBLIC SPEAKER SERIES

Child Speech Development: Integrating, Articulation, Perception, and Motor Control

Dr. Fangfang Li
University of Lethbridge

Wed, March 25, 2020
2:00-3:00 PM
AH116

Questions?

Dr. Alain Flaubert Takam
403-329-2561
alain.takam@uleth.ca

Most children learn to talk within the first few years of their life. How they embark on this incredible journey is still a big unknown to us. To what extent are children born with an articulatory propensity that is similar to other motor abilities and unfolds itself following a maturational schedule? To what extent does the ambient language shape the developing perception system which in turn enables the acquisition of articulatory skills?

Past research has demonstrated that children undergo rapid changes in their vocal anatomy in the first few years of life. These changes include vocal tract enlargement, laryngeal decent, and eruption of teeth, each of which have distinct biomechanical consequences with regard to the range and type of the sounds that can be produced.

In this talk, I will synthesize findings from Linguistics, Psychology, Neuroscience, Kinesiology, and Speech Science to discuss how children learn to produce speech sounds under constantly-evolving anatomical, perceptual, and motor constraints and how their interaction with the language environment shape their perception of their language and guide their articulatory actions.

University of Lethbridge

FIAT LUX