

2023 Special Lecture Series

Research Center for Language, Brain and Cognition Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, Tohoku University

Ping Li The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

April 3rd, Monday, 16:00-17:30, 6th Floor Hall

Multimedia Education and Research Complex, Kawauchi Kita Campus, Tohoku University



Digital Language Learning (DLL): Technology, Data, and the Brain

How can we leverage advances in digital technology and data science to enhance language learning? In an era of widespread digital application and innovation, our understanding of the interaction between humans and technology has lagged behind. In this talk, I outline an approach that combines emerging technologies and computational data-driven approaches with current neuro-cognitive theories, with a particular reference to second language learning and its representation. This approach relies on interactive mechanisms (bottom-up and top-down) and integrative processes (theory and application) that enable us to understand the differences between child and adult language learning, as well as individual differences in diverse language learning contexts. Computational and neurocognitive studies in this domain also have significant implications for applications of AI and machine learning methods for personalized education, thereby informing pedagogical designs and instructional innovations.

Ping Li is Sin Wai Kin Professor in Humanities and Technology, Chair Professor of Neurolinguistics and Bilingual Studies, and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He previously served as President of the Society for Computation in Psychology and Program Director at the U.S. National Science Foundation while being a Professor of Psychology, Linguistics, and Information Sciences at the Pennsylvania State University. Li's research is focused on investigating the neurocognitive and computational bases of language acquisition, bilingualism, and reading comprehension in both children and adults. He uses cognitive neuroscience methods and digital technologies to study neuroplasticity and individual differences in learning and to understand the relationships among language, culture, technology, and the brain. Li is currently Editor-in-Chief of Brain and Language and Senior Editor of Cognitive Science. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). https://blclab.org/ourlab/ping-li/





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