

**Speech and Language Therapy Department  
Birmingham City University**

**RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES 2013-2014: POST-CHRISTMAS**



All seminars take place at City South Campus (Westbourne Road, B15 3TN). Seminars are free to attend and followed by refreshments. Seats cannot be reserved, but please email Christel de Bruijn on [slt-seminars@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:slt-seminars@bcu.ac.uk) if you are planning to attend

---

**08/01/2014** Professor Carl Clarke

**An evidenced-based approach to speech and language therapy in Parkinson's disease**

Seacole 145  
3-4pm  
Professor of Clinical Neurology  
School of Clinical and Experimental Medicine  
University of Birmingham

Professor Clarke will describe the results of his team's systematic reviews of the effectiveness of speech and language therapy in Parkinson's disease. He will go on to describe the ongoing pilot randomised controlled trial of two forms of speech and language therapy versus no therapy in patients with Parkinson's disease and communication problems.

---

**05/02/2014** Professor Gareth Gaskell

**Language learning: how sleep can improve your vocabulary**

Seacole 145  
3-4pm  
Department of Psychology  
University of York

I will explore the possibility that learning a word involves several stages that take place over an extended period of time. Many aspects of acquiring a new word, such as becoming familiar with its sound or meaning, are effectively immediate. However, some more subtle aspects of word learning appear to be slower. I will discuss adult and developmental studies suggesting that sleep has a role to play in consolidating the slower emerging properties, and look at the components of sleep that might be responsible. Finally, I will present some initial results intended to investigate whether sleep and consolidation are implicated for language acquisition in atypical developmental populations

---

---

**05/03/2014 Dr. Caroline Witton**

**Understanding auditory processing impairments in developmental dyslexia; experimental challenges and considerations**

---

Seacole 145 Aston Brain Centre  
3-4 pm Aston University  
Birmingham

Differences in sensory sensitivity, especially for auditory stimuli, have been implicated in a number of developmental disorders, including developmental dyslexia. Despite decades of research, the significance of these auditory processing impairments remains unclear. This talk will discuss some of the evidence for the association of auditory processing disorders with dyslexia, but will also evaluate the potential pitfalls of the methods which have been used to measure sensory thresholds in this population. Finally I will explore how neuroimaging, specifically magnetoencephalography (MEG) may be able to provide new insights into the neurophysiological basis of the association between auditory processing and reading disability.

---

**02/04/2014 Professor James Law**

**A public health approach to speech, language and communication needs in children**

---

Bevan 010 Professor of Speech and Language Sciences  
3-4 pm School of Education, Communication and  
Language Sciences  
Newcastle University

Synopsis to follow

---

**21/05/2014 Dr. Vicky Slonims**

**A randomised controlled trial on parent-mediated communication-focused treatment in children with autism (PACT)**

---

Seacole 145 Consultant speech and language therapist  
3-4 pm Newcomen Centre  
St Thomas' Hospital  
London

Synopsis to follow

---