

Language and Cognition
University Seminar #681

Meeting of April 30, 2009

“How infants learn the sound structure of language”

Elizabeth K. Johnson
Department of Psychology
University of Toronto

Many contemporary models of developmental speech perception are built upon two assumptions. First, infants rely heavily on transitional probabilities between syllables to extract words from fluent speech. Second, infants have difficulty coping with variability in the acoustic realization of words. In this talk, I will suggest that these two assumptions might be logically incompatible. I will also present evidence questioning the validity of both assumptions. An alternative perspective on infant speech development will be discussed.

Place: **Room 1510**, Kellogg Center
School of International and Public Affairs
420 West 118th Street

Time: 4:00 PM

For directions to the School of International and Public Affairs, please refer to the map which can be found at this URL:

http://www.columbia.edu/about_columbia/map/international_affairs.html

RSVP: If you will attend the meeting on April 30, please send a note to:

Sara Maria Hasbun, rapporteur
saramaria.h@gmail.com

If you will join Professor Johnson for dinner in the neighborhood after the meeting, please indicate this in your note to Ms. Hasbun.