

Language and Cognition
University Seminar #681

Meeting of February 23, 2012

“From phonemes to discourse:
The role of sensory and cognitive factors in understanding
age-related changes in speech perception”

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A central focus of recent research on speech perception in older adults has been to dissociate the relative contributions of sensory and cognitive impairments as factors contributing to age-related declines in understanding spoken communication. In this talk, I will present theoretical arguments and empirical findings suggesting that a focus on the independent contributions of these two factors fails to recognize the critical interrelationships between them. The work I will present supports the position that the interaction between sensory and cognitive abilities provides the best account of why older adults have greater difficulty than their younger counterparts understanding spoken language ranging from phonemes to discourse.

Place: Seminar Room #2
The Faculty House
64 Morningside Drive

Time: 4:00 PM

For directions to the Faculty House, please refer to the map which can be found at this URL:

<http://www.columbia.edu/files/columbia/content/morningsidecampus-2011-02-16.pdf>

RSVP: If you will attend the meeting on February 23, please send a note to:

Grace Zhou, Rapporteur
gracezhou@gmail.com

If you will join Dr. Sommers for dinner at the Faculty House after the meeting, please indicate this in your note to the Rapporteur.