

The INS and OUTS of Spatial Language: From Theory to Practice

University of Chicago's Gleacher Center
June 11 and 12th 2008

Infants around the world notice the ins and outs, the goals and results of everyday actions. When they learn their native tongue, they must package these events for speaking. And languages do this differently. Korean has a word *kkita* that represents 'tight-fitting' (e.g., fitting a peg tightly into a hole or fitting one Lego[®] tightly onto another). In English, however, the relevant distinction is between containment ("in") and support ("on"), regardless of the tightness of fit. In Spanish, the verb tends to focus on the **where** someone is going (path) leaving **how** they go (manner) outside of the main verb *Una mujer salió de la casa (corriendo)* (e.g., *A woman exited the house (running)*). In English, the reverse is true with manner packaged within the verb and path outside (e.g., *A woman ran out of the house*). How do children learn the ins and outs of spatial language? How does the study of spatial language interact with our understanding of the dynamic world of events? In this conference, top scholars from around the world join to discuss the latest research and ask how this research might bear on issues of practical concern like second language learning and bilingualism.

Distinguished speakers include:

Melissa Bowerman, *Max-Planck-Institute*
Marianella Casasola, *Cornell University*
Soonja Choi, *San Diego State University*
Marie Coppola, *University of Chicago*
Dedre Gentner, *Northwestern University*
Lila Gleitman, *University of Pennsylvania*
Adele Goldberg, *Princeton University*
Susan Goldin-Meadow, *University of Chicago*

Roberta Golinkoff, *University of Delaware*
Susan Hesos, *Northwestern University*
Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, *Temple University*
Barbara Landau, *Johns Hopkins University*
Susan Levine, *University of Chicago*
Nora Newcombe, *Temple University*
Terry Regier, *University of Chicago*

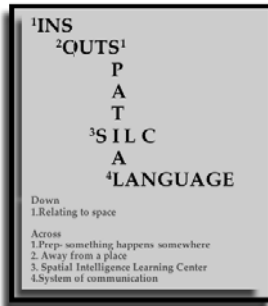
Graduate and undergraduate students welcome. To register for this conference contact Adrienne Larmett at 215-204-4261, or Larmett@temple.edu. Please note, space is very limited and registration is on a first-come basis.

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The INS and OUTS of Spatial Learning: From Theory to Practice

June 11-12, 2008
Gleacher Center, Chicago

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Proposed timing:

Talks: 25 minutes, with 10 minutes of questions
Keynote: 45 minutes, with 15 minutes for questions.
Breaks: About 25 minutes, with muffins, etc.

Day 1

9:00-10:00 **Opening talk: “What language can tell us about how we see events and relations”**
Melissa Bowerman, *Max-Planck-Institute*

10:15-1:30 **Early learning of events and relations: Do we all start alike?**

10:15 Two talks:
Sue Hespos, *Northwestern University*
Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, *Temple University* & Roberta Golinkoff, *University of Delaware*

11:35 **Break**

12:00 Two talks:
Marianella Casasola, *Cornell University*
Susan Goldin-Meadow, *University of Chicago*

1:30-3:00 **Lunch**

3:00-6:05 **Interaction between language and cognition**

3:00 Two talks:
Dedre Gentner, *Northwestern University*
Soonja Choi, *San Diego State University*

4:20 **Break**

4:45 Two talks:
Terry Regier, *University of Chicago*
Marie Coppola, *University of Chicago*

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Day 2

- 9:00-10:40** **Learning processes**
- 9:30 Adele Goldberg, *Princeton University*
- 10:20** **Break**
- 10:45-3:15** **The challenge of moving from research to practice**
- 10:45 Two talks:
Barbara Landau, *Johns Hopkins University*
Susan Levine, *University of Chicago*
- 12:00-1:00** **Lunch**
- 1:15 Nora Newcombe, *Temple University*
- 1:50** **Break**
- 2:15-4:00** **Rethinking malleability**
- 2:15 Lila Gleitman, *University of Pennsylvania*
2:45 Discussion

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