



Seminar Series for Joint East-West Early Language Project

アジア欧米言語獲得研究プロジェクト セミナーシリーズ

Seminar Series #10

*Autism Illuminates Language:
Acquisition, Development, Use*



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Zoom Webinar

Admission: Free

Registration site ↓



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JEWEL Seminar Series #10

Autism Illuminates Language: Acquisition, Development, Use

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Children on the autism spectrum engage in social interactions with lower frequency and in different patterns compared with children who are developing typically. This variation in social engagement has afforded many explorations of the significance of social interaction as a mechanism in language acquisition, development, and use. The Longitudinal Study of Early Language is a 20+-years-long multi-domain exploration of the language of children on the autism spectrum, including their comprehension via Intermodal Preferential Looking, their production via naturalistic interactions, and their performance in numerous psycholinguistic and clinical assessments. In this talk I will highlight how comprehension findings demonstrating early acquisition of grammatical constructions, combined with wide heterogeneity in language production by these same children, indicate how social engagement plays a targeted rather than universal role in early language. Moreover, investigations of lexical semantics reveal challenges but also promote reconsideration of the definitions of social strengths and weaknesses in both autistic and non-autistic individuals.