



**Seminar Series
for Joint East-West Early Language Project**
アジア欧米言語獲得研究“JEWEL”プロジェクト セミナーシリーズ

Seminar Series #12

*How infants make sense of speech,
and how we can find out*



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University of Pennsylvania

Host: Reiko Mazuka

RIKEN CBS/Waseda University/Duke University
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Zoom Webinar

Admission: Free

Registration site ↓



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JEWEL Seminar #12

How infants make sense of speech, and how we can find out

Daniel Swingley

(University of Pennsylvania)

Laboratory experiments from the early 1970's to the 1990's set much of the agenda for infant speech perception research up to the present day, emphasizing infants' cognitive skills and using theoretical tools given by the cognitive psychology of perceptual categorization. I will argue that it is time to reconsider. Infants are both more and less competent than we once thought. Even more importantly, parental speech does not appear to have the properties required and presupposed by the usual "statistical learning" accounts of category learning and word-form discovery. I will defend these points and propose that we should use different intuitions in contemplating the infant's path toward language understanding. In particular, we should try to imagine the infant's organic path, rather than setting the infant targets from the mature language.