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## **The Bilingual Brain**

Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> 2019, 11:00 – 12:30

Child- and Adolescent Psychiatry (KJPP)  
Neumünsterallee 3, 8008 Zürich

Seminar room (MZR) NA3-A09 (EG)



## About this Seminar

Many studies have investigated the cognitive processes used to produce words in multilingual speakers. However, one criticism of this research is the emphasis on Indo-European languages. The question posed in this presentation is whether the cognitive processes that have been assumed in models of language processing (naming, reading and spelling) apply to multilingual speakers. This question is important because a majority of the global population is multilingual and use very different writing systems. Indeed, even within a language e.g. Japanese and Korean - two or more scripts must be learned to become literate.

The outcome of Prof. Weekes' research shows that script does matter in neuro-cognitive processing of written words with implications for universal models of reading and writing. The results also have some clinical implications for the diagnosis and treatment of aphasia, dyslexia and dysgraphia in multilingual speakers.

# Program

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## 11:00-12:00 Seminar The Bilingual Brain

Influences of multilingualism on cognitive processes and clinical implications

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## 12:00-12:30 Discussion

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## About the Speaker



Brendan Weekes graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1985 and he then studied at the University of California Berkeley and obtained his qualification in Clinical Psychology and PhD in 1992. He worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Birmingham with Professor Glyn Humphreys and then a tenured Faculty Member in Clinical Psychology at the Australian National University. From 1994 to 1999, he worked as Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology at the Universities of Kent (UK) and Hong Kong. He then

moved to the University of Sussex, until 2010, when he returned to the University of Hong Kong as a Chair Professor in Communication Science, where he is currently Distinguished Prestigious Fellow and Primary Investigator of the State Key Laboratory for Brain and Cognitive Sciences. He is also Honorary Professor at the University of Melbourne (his alma mater) with the School of Psychology in the Faculty of Medicine also holding a second appointment at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education (MGSE). Additionally, he holds Honorary Appointments at the University of Cambridge, the University of Science and Technology (Beijing) and University of Zambia. He is currently an Ambassador for UNESCO Year of Indigenous Languages, 2019.

His main research interest is in aphasia, including dementia and late-life healthy ageing. He is also interested in neuropsychological studies of patients with brain damage specifically as these relate to cognitive assessment and universal health care for patients in Greater China. He has published more than 150 peer-reviewed papers and has received prestigious awards.



## Event informations

**Registration:** not required

**Contact Person:**

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Developmental Neuroimaging Group

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

**Costs:** The event is free

**How to find us:**

Public transport: Tram 11 direction Rehalp to Signaustasse.

