

***Ph.D. Program in Speech-Language-
Hearing Sciences***

LECTURE

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009
4:15 P.M., ROOM 7102**

Linda Polka, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
School of Communication Sciences & Disorders
McGill University

“The Role of Attention in Infant Phonetic Perception”

Abstract: Infants must possess some ability to selectively attend to phonetic patterns to learn native language categories. This ability becomes critical when infants listen to speech in noise or in the presence of multiple talkers. This talk will summarize recent findings from a new testing paradigm designed to isolate and examine the role of infant selective attention to phonetic patterns in noise. Data comparing infants with and without early experience with otitis media with effusion (OME) will be reported. Findings to date show that selective attention is an important skill that supports speech intake in infants and that conditions that negatively impact this ability may impede the acquisition of native language phonetic categories. I will also describe our ongoing research which focuses on understanding *how* infants recruit the attentional resources necessary to acquire native language phonetic categories.

The Graduate Center
365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY
212 817-8800