

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

COLLOQUIUM

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**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2009
12 noon – Room 9206/9207**

**Topic: National Science Foundation Support for Social, Behavioral, and Economic
Sciences**

A general overview of NSF programs in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences. Opportunities for graduate students, postdocs, new faculty, and established faculty will be covered. Come with questions!

and

**Wednesday, September 30, 2009
4:15 P.M., ROOM 7102**

Topic: Routes for learning language and language as a route to learning

Abstract: One of the outstanding questions in speech research concerns how adults learn to perceive differences between speech sounds that are cognitively equivalent in their native language. In this talk, I focus on how each individual's categorization and discrimination abilities structure the form of learning over time and influence what is actually learned. The two modes of learning observed, as well as the failure to learn, are modeled as a single dynamical system with acoustic and phonological parameters. Both data and theory suggest that areas of the brain may be differentially activated by different modes of learning. This idea is supported by a functional MRI study of teenagers with nonverbal learning disorders. Results show that brain activity reflects not only performance but also instruction modality, suggesting closer consideration of how experimental tasks are defined. [Work supported by NSF grant 0414657 and 0719683]

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