

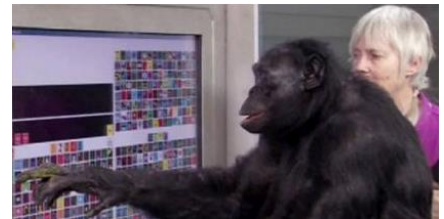


# Language and the Mind

Q33118 – Autumn Semester

When you hear someone yell 'FIRE' you immediately look for an exit and start running. Yet all that a speaker has done is produce a string of sounds. Your *mind* distinguishes them from the murmuring of other voices, feet clomping on the floor, background music, etc. Your *mind* matches the sounds *f-i-r-e* with a word, retrieves the meaning, and relates them to the current circumstances and responds accordingly. How does the *mind* do this?

- In the module we will explore questions like the following.
  - Is there a language gene?
  - What makes human language different from animal communication?
  - What is the relationship between thought and language?
  - Does everyone talk to themselves? What purpose does our inner voice serve?
  - How do we learn language? And does cognition underpin our ability to learn language?
  - What do language deficits tell us about language and the brain?
  - How do we understand and produce speech, words, and sentences?
  - What is the best way to teach children to read?
  - How is sign language similar to/different from spoken language?



## Assessment:

- 70% poster presentation of research
- 30% Learning Journal, with feedback throughout the semester

## Student Comments About Learning Journal

"The Learning Journal meant that I was actually accessing the info each week and drawing my own conclusions as the course progressed."

"I really like the Learning Journals as it forces you to do the reading each week. And I like the experiments/videos that help me to understand the subject."

"Weekly marks have improved my writing style."

## More details from:

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## Teaching Method: 3-hr weekly workshop

learn about language processing in the brain, watch video clips, conduct language studies, and discuss theories and data

## Student Evaluation of Teaching

"Easily the best seminar tutor I've had."

"This is the module I have enjoyed and engaged with the most."

## External Examiner Comments

"This is clearly a very hands-on module employing some original assessment procedures."

## Careers and Further Study

This module is necessary for students wanting to pursue an MSc in Speech Language Therapy and helpful for those wanting to be teachers.

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