

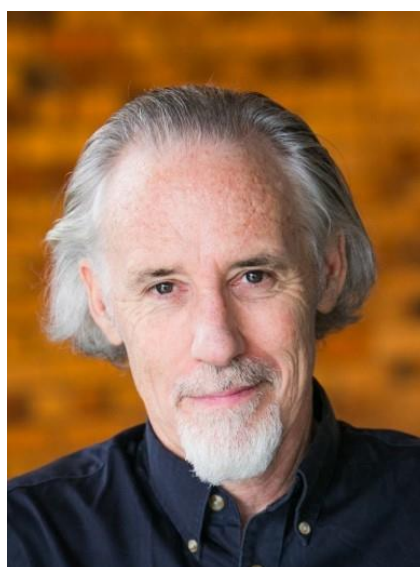
September 11th, Sunday

16 : 15-17 : 15

Lexical facility: Size and speed as dimensions of second language vocabulary skill

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This talk introduces an account of L2 lexical skill that combines vocabulary knowledge and processing efficiency (Harrington, 2016). Lexical facility is a three-dimensional construct comprised of the *size* of the individual's recognition vocabulary, the *speed* with which these words are recognised, and the *consistency* of the recognition speed. Greater vocabulary size and faster recognition speed are well-established correlates of fluent performance, while consistency as measured by the coefficient of variation has only recently attracted interest as an index of learner



proficiency. The combination of knowledge and processing skill dimensions in a unitary measurement construct is at odds with longstanding psychometric theory that treats knowledge (power) and speed as independent dimensions. The conceptual case for the lexical facility proposal is first set out, with particular reference to the time-contingent nature of second language knowledge. Empirical evidence is then presented from studies examining the sensitivity of the measures, separately and in combination, to performance differences in various domains of academic English. The talk will finish with a discussion of the potential for the use of composite measures in L2 vocabulary measurement and more generally for incorporating time measures in models of second language acquisition and use.