

Departmental Seminar

Unraveling speech and cognitive development, and social interactions in children with communication disorders: insights from fNIRS research

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ABSTRACT

Children with communication disorders, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and hearing loss, frequently experience language delays, developmental challenges in executive functions, and deficits in social interactions. With the implementation of inclusive education policy, most of these children attend mainstream schools. They may face more significant challenges in schools, including having lower social acceptance, greater difficulties making peer friends, and struggling with academic learning compared with their typically developing (TD) peers. Early detection and prompt intervention make it more likely for these children to reach the same developmental milestones as their TD peers. In this talk, I will first discuss language and cognitive processing in single-person neuroscience, and peer interactions among young children in second- and multi-person neuroscience. I will present research paradigms that could be used to identify deficits among children, particularly when behavioral measures are not yet available or subjective to perceptual bias. I will then discuss my current research on how children with special educational needs engage and learn alongside their peers, offering insights that could advance educational neuroscience and improve teaching methods.



ALL ARE WELCOME



Date:
14 May 2025 (Wed)

Time:
9:30 am - 11:00 am

Venue:
Room G6, G/F,
Ho Tim Building, CUHK

Language:
English



Registration Deadline:
13 May 2025

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Zhou Xin is currently a Research Assistant Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Dr. Zhou is a neuroscientist whose research concerns the neural basis of human communication using behavioral and objective measures, including functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS), pupillometry, and electroencephalogram (EEG). Dr. Zhou did her PhD in the University of Melbourne (Australia), followed by two Postdoctoral Fellows, one in the University of Wisconsin-Madison (US) and one in the CUHK. Before her current job, Dr. Zhou was a Senior Research Scientist in the National Acoustic Laboratories, Hearing Australia. Leveraging a multidisciplinary background, her research seeks to deepen the understanding of the neural mechanisms of communication disorders in single-person, second-person neuroscience, and beyond. Her ultimate goal is to develop effective interventions tailored to the unique needs of individuals with communication disorders.



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Online Registration:
<https://cloud.itsc.cuhk.edu.hk/webform/view.php?id=13709186>