

Barbara Gordon Memorial Lecture and Linguistics Festival

FIU Linguistics Program



You are cordially invited to a two-day event
celebrating the Barbara Gordon Memorial Lecture Series

Feb. 21 — 6:30 p.m.

Barbara Gordon Memorial Lecture

Luna Filipović,

University of East Anglia, UK

**LANGUAGE IN THE WITNESS STAND: FORENSIC LINGUISTIC SOLUTIONS
FOR CROSS-LINGUISTIC PROBLEMS IN WITNESS INTERVIEWS**

Feb. 22 — All Day

Festival — Linguistics Matters

**Featuring further research by Luna Filipović
and by Faculty Members at FIU**

**Both events are FREE and OPEN TO FIU STUDENTS
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

*Sponsored in part by The Barbara Gordon Memorial Lecture Series, FIU's Linguistics Program,
FIU's Department of English, and FIU's Linguistics Club Graduate Student Organization and CSO*

FIU

**Arts &
Sciences**

School of Environment, Arts and Society

Barbara Gordon Memorial Lecture

FEBRUARY 21, 2013 | 6:30 P.M.
GRAHAM CENTER FACULTY CLUB

Luna Filipović
University of East Anglia, UK



LANGUAGE IN THE WITNESS STAND: FORENSIC LINGUISTIC SOLUTIONS FOR CROSS-LINGUISTIC PROBLEMS IN WITNESS INTERVIEWS

The focus of this talk is the analysis of witness interviews in multilingual environments and the effects of language differences that may affect the ways in which information is obtained, translated and understood. The data come from original transcripts of police interviews obtained in the state of California in which witnesses speak Spanish and the interviews are translated into English by certified interpreters. Dr. Filipović will show how differences between two languages in the habitual “packaging” of information may cause severe problems in understanding what had happened and potentially lead to serious further misunderstandings, such as whether something was done on purpose or not, which can make an enormous difference to the outcome of a case.

Festival – Linguistics Matters **Plenary Talk**

FEBRUARY 22, 2013 | 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
GRAHAM CENTER, ROOM 314

Luna Filipović
University of East Anglia, UK

LANGUAGE(S) AND MEMORY: UNIVERSAL VS. LANGUAGE-SPECIFIC RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

In this talk Dr. Filipović will tease apart language-specific and universal features in perception, lexicalization and memory for events. The data come from experiments involving English and Spanish, which provide their speakers with different language patterns for expressing motion events (Talmy 1985, 2000). In the first set of experiments, the stimuli included simple motion events, with one manner and one path component (e.g. a moving figure staggering into a building). Here speakers’ memory of events was affected by perception of universal subcomponents such as speed, pace and step size, rather than language-specific lexicalizations.

The second set of experiments contained complex motion events in the stimuli (e.g. a moving figure staggering out of the building, swaying along the path and marching around the corner). The increase in memory load with regard to the crucial motion component in which the English and Spanish lexicalization systems differ (i.e. manner) results in a language-specific effect on memory. However, when the covert use of language is disabled, the language effect is no longer observed. Dr. Filipović discusses implications of these results for language processing and memory for events in general, as well as circumstances under which language effects appear and disappear.

Festival – Linguistics Matters

Schedule of Events

FEBRUARY 22, 2013
GRAHAM CENTER

PLENARY TALK **GC 314**

10:30 - 12:00 Language(s) and Memory:
Universal vs. Language-Specific Rules of Engagement
Luna Filipović, University of East Anglia, UK

12:00 BREAK

RESEARCH AT FIU **GC 243**

1:30 - 2:00 Replacing the Broca-Wernicke-Geschwind Model:
New Thinking on the Neurobiology of Language
Anthony Dick, Department of Psychology

2:00 - 2:30 Communication and Linguistic Profiles after Stroke: Changing Perspectives
Monica Hough, Department of Communication and Science Disorders

2:30 - 3:00 What Guides Children's Reductions in the Acquisition of /s/- Clusters?
A Cross-Linguistic Account
Mehmet Yavaş, Department of English

3:00 BREAK

3:20 - 3:50 *Picking the Phrasal Verbs Up* in Large Corpora:
Pointing Them all Out without *Messing Up*
Peter Machonis, Department of Modern Languages

3:50 - 4:20 Impact of Early Educator Language Use on Pre-Kindergarten Children's
Numeracy and Spatial Skills
Shannon Pruden, Carla Abad, Amanda Costales, and Rosalie Odean,
Department of Psychology

4:20 - 4:50 How Do Bilingual Children Acquire Their Two Languages?
Evidence on Performance in Spanish and English from Miami Bilinguals
Virginia C. Mueller Gathercole, Department of English

4:50 FINAL DISCUSSION AND CLOSING

If you need more information, please contact Sam Syms at ssyms@fiu.edu, 305-348-3155; Naomi Enzinna, President of the Linguistics Club Graduate Student Organization at nenzi001@fiu.edu; vmueller@fiu.edu; or hopkinst@fiu.edu.

About the Barbara Gordon Memorial Lecture Series

The Barbara Gordon Memorial Lecture Series in Linguistics was established at FIU in 1984 by Senator Jack Gordon, former State Senator of Florida, in the memory of his first wife, Barbara Gordon.

Dr. Barbara Gordon received her BA in English and Psychology from the University of Wisconsin in 1948, her MA in Teaching English and Foreign Languages from Columbia University in 1949 and her EdD in Educational Linguistics from Columbia University in 1962. Her areas of specialization were Psycholinguistics, Applied Linguistics, Educational Linguistics, Conversational Interaction, and Ethnosemantics.

Each year, the Linguistics Program and the Barbara Gordon Memorial Endowment bring a major figure in the discipline to campus for a public lecture and a special workshop for linguistics faculty and graduate students.

Recent speakers have included:

- Norma Mendoza-Denton (U of Arizona)
“Citizen Rage: Town Hall Meetings and Constitutional Disagreement in American Politics”
- Lesley Milroy (U of Michigan)
“Bilingual Conversations: Code-Switching as Social Action”
- Fred Genesee (McGill U)
“Dual Language Learning: Expanding the Mind”
- Salikoko S. Mufwene (U of Chicago)
“Globalization, Colonization and Language Vitality”
- Geoffrey Nunberg (UC Berkeley)
“The Paradox of Political Language”
- Lise Menn (U of Colorado)
“Doing Cross-Linguistic Studies on Aphasia”
- Shana Poplack (U of Ottawa)
”Contact, Code-switching and (Resistance to) Convergence: The Case of Preposition Stranding in Quebec French”

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*Cover photo: Stasys Eidrigevičius, “Wall of Silence. Sorrows.” Warsaw Rising Museum.
(photo V C Mueller)*

Linguistics Program

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