

CROSSTALK

Interdisciplinary Talk Series on Language and Communication

April 3, 2023 | Conference Center 110

3:00pm - 4:15 pm followed by a reception with food & drinks

Open to students, staff, faculty, and the entire Merced community!



Language as a life experience: How using two languages shapes the bilingual mind and brain

Dr. Judith Kroll

University of California, Irvine

Dr. Judith Kroll is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Language Science at the University of California, Irvine. She is widely recognized for her expertise in bilingualism, second language acquisition, and the neurocognition of language. Throughout her career, Dr. Kroll has made numerous groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of how bilinguals and language learners juggle the presence of two languages in one mind and brain. She was one of the founding editors of the journal *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, and one of the founding organizers of Women in Cognitive Science.

In the last two decades there has been an upsurge of research on the bilingual mind and brain. Although the world is multilingual, only recently have cognitive and language scientists come to see that the use of two or more languages provides a unique lens to examine the neural plasticity engaged by language experience. But how? In this talk, I illustrate the ways that recent studies have shown that the minds and brains of bilinguals are inherently complex and social, taking into account the variation in contexts in which the two languages are learned and used, and shaping the dynamics of cross-language exchange across the lifespan.

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