

Professor Kim Plunkett's Talk

How to study the infant mind: reflections from the Oxford University BabyLab

Synopsis 内容提要

A fundamental problem in studying infants' development is their inability to tell us what they know. The youngest ones can't talk and the older ones might not understand what you're asking them. Therefore, we have to devise cunning methods to figure out what they know and how they've learnt what they know. This talk will provide a brief overview of some of the methods that we employ in the Oxford University BabyLab to study cognitive and linguistic development during the first two years of life. I will discuss questions such as:

- How do infants learn to categorise objects?
- How do infants learn the meanings of words?
- Does their native language influence their concept development?
- What are infants doing whilst they are asleep?

Answers to these questions provide insights into the nature of the underlying mechanisms that drive development from infancy to adulthood.



Speaker's bio 演讲者简介

Professor Kim Plunkett is Director of the Oxford University BabyLab and Professor of Cognitive Science at the Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford. He is the Tutorial Fellow in Experimental Psychology, St Hugh's College, Oxford and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

His main interest is in understanding the mechanisms of change that drive linguistic and cognitive development in infants and young children. The primary focus of his work is on word recognition, word learning, semantic development and category formation during the first two years of life. He also has a long standing interest in morphological processes in children and adults.

In 1992, he established the Oxford BabyLab which is a research facility for the experimental investigation of linguistic and cognitive development in babies and young children. Researchers in his lab employ experimental techniques (preferential looking, eye-tracking and habituation), computational modelling (artificial neural networks) and imaging (ERPs) methods as tools of investigation. Click here for his detailed biography.

Format 形式

45 minutes for presentation and 30-45 minutes for Q&A

Date and Time 时间

2016年10月12日 (周三) 上午 9:30-11:00am

Venue 地点

浙江大学西溪校区田家炳书院520



Professor Kim Plunkett's meetings



Kim Plunkett, FAcSS
Professor of Cognitive Science, Oxford University
Tutorial Fellow in Experimental Psychology, St Hugh's College

Lunch Meetings

Here are some suggestions for topics that Prof. Kim Plunkett would be happy to talk to grad students, postdocs and faculty over lunch. Of course, he's open to other suggestions too!

- > Infant memory
- > Phonological development
- > Concept formation
- > Categorisation
- > Word meaning
- > Word recognition
- > Word learning
- > Semantic networks
- > Neural networks
- > Preferential Looking
- > Visual World Task
- > Statistical Modelling of Eye-tracking data
- > Prototype theory
- > Connectionism



Weekly Seminars

Also, there are weekly seminars on Early Learning and Cognitive Development at 3:00-4:30pm on Monday afternoon, Sep.26, Oct.10, Oct.17, Oct.24, at #120 Tianjiabing Building, during Prof. Kim Plunkett's visit.



Note

Professor Kim Plunkett have been doing cooperative research here, as a Qiushi Chair Professor of Zhejiang University, as well as a Chair Professor of MuMu Funding affiliated to College of Education, with his host at Zhejiang University, Professor Qinmei Xu.

Please feel free to contact us at sdrg@zju.edu.cn if you would like to join us, or have lunch meeting with Professor Kim Plunkett, or any inquiry