

This seminar will introduce students to current perspectives on the evolution and development of language. I will start by examining the settings for language development: its evolutionary and neuropsychological bases before turning to developments in the first year of life. The second part of the seminar will compare different theoretical approaches to language development in the light of recent evidence: here I will consider the role of input and the ways in which children's errors can illuminate the developmental pathway. Finally, I will turn to discussing crosslinguistic and cross-cultural research in the light of the strengths and problems associated with different methodologies: corpus analysis, experimental and computational modelling.

Reading:

Lieven, E. (2019) Input, interaction and learning in early language development In Grøver, V., Uccelli, P., Rowe, M., & Lieven, E. (Eds) **Learning through Language: Towards an Educationally Informed Theory of Language Learning**. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (pps. 19-30)