

# CBS Public Lecture



## One Brain, Many Languages: The Biological Bases of the Plurilingual Brain

Presented by

**Prof. WANG Shiyuan William**

Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies,  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Date: 4 October 2017 (Wed)

Time: 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Venue: Y305, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

[Campus Map](#)

### Abstract:

The brain weighs only 3 pounds, but it is the most powerful machine in the universe. The brain made language possible around 100,000 years ago, which in turn has enabled us to re-shape our entire planet and double our lifespan. The exploration of how the brain serves language began in the 19th century, when scientists tried to localize different aspects of language impairment to distinct lobes in the left hemisphere. Much new knowledge was gained during the 20th century through various surgical procedures. Major technological breakthroughs came in recent decades when imaging methods were developed, especially EEG (electroencephalograph) and MRI (magnetic resonance imaging), which can help us examine the brain in healthy individuals online, when they use language in various ways. Against this background, I will discuss our current understanding of how language acquisition begins even in the womb and continues past puberty, how different linguistic structures as well as different languages are stored in the brain, and how language is compromised when the brain declines due to disease or old age.

Seats are limited. For registration, please click [here](#).