

Harvard University GSAS
Universals Workshops
Charles B. Chang, Boston University
March 29, 2019, 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Emerson Hall Room 104

Title: Crosslinguistic overlap in bilingualism: The view from speech perception

Abstract: This talk will discuss aspects of native (L1) and nonnative (L2) speech perception in sequential bilingual adults of various L1 backgrounds immersed in an L2 (English) environment. Two studies will be presented: the first study focuses on how L1 knowledge transfers to L2 perception, and the second study on how L1 perception is affected by L2 immersion. The findings support a view of the linguistic system(s) undergirding L1 and L2 perception as integrative, adaptive, and dynamic, yet also constrained by crosslinguistic similarity and developmental changes correlated with age.