VANDERBILT SCHOOL OF MEDICINE | Hearing and Speech Sciences

OCTOBER
Diversity Series

October 16, 2024 – 12-1 PM | ROOM 8318
DHSS Book Club Discussion on:
The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together
Author: Heather McGhee

OCTOBER 23, 2024 – 12-1 PM | ROOM 8318

2024 Rising Star Awardee Presentation

Breaking barriers, building language: Leveraging family strengths to promote shared book reading in vulnerable communities
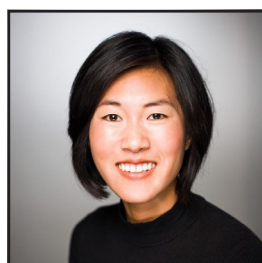
Miguel Garcia-Salas, MS, is a doctoral candidate in the School of Communication Science and Disorders at Florida State University. He is also a Florida Interdisciplinary Research Fellow in Education Sciences through the Florida Center for Reading Research. His research focuses on promoting language development in children with or at risk for language disorders in vulnerable communities through the collaborative development of family-centered resources.

2024 RISING STAR HONORABLE MENTION AWARDEES

Natalie King-Shaw (she/her/ella) is a PhD student at Harvard in Speech and Hearing Bioscience and Technology completing her clinical training through the SLP Track, and a Doctoral Research Fellow in the MGH Institute of Health Professions Speech and Language (SAiL) Literacy Lab. She researches community-based practices for education and equitable literacy access, with a focus on increasing culturally and linguistically affirming educational spaces for multilingual and multidialectal children of color.

Joseph Hin Yan Lam is a PhD candidate at the University of California, Irvine. His research interests include bilingual language and literacy development, assessment and intervention in bilingual children with developmental language disorders, and the intersection between bilingualism and math. Prior to his PhD study, he practiced as a school-based speech language pathologist in Hong Kong.

OCTOBER 30, 2024 – 12-1 PM | ROOM 8318

Special Guest Lecture in Diversity

Language in autism in the transition to adulthood: Integrating social and medical models of disability

Teresa Girolamo is an Assistant Professor in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at San Diego State University. Prior to joining SDSU, she received her PhD in Child Language and completed postdoctoral training at the University of Connecticut, each supported by T32 traineeships. Her research interests involve language development and disorders, considering phenotypic variability in autism and other neurodivergent populations. Her work has been supported by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation and is currently supported by the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute and NIDCD. Her current projects examine environmental influences on the transition to adulthood in racially and ethnically minoritized autistic youth varying widely in language and communication profiles and effective assessment for this population.

Abstract of Dr. Girolamo's presentation: Although language in autism is heterogeneous and strongly predicts long-term outcomes, little is known about the language skills of transition-aged autistic youth and adults. Research in this area has expanded significantly over the past 10 years. Yet studies tend to rely on broad group comparisons and to only attribute adult outcomes to individual differences, such as language skills, rather than examining heterogeneity in the experiences and skills of autistic individuals. In this talk, I will discuss current studies in the Brain, Environment, and Language Lab through which we are attempting to address some of these limitations. These projects represent community-partnered efforts to examine language in the transition to adulthood and to move toward research models that address both environmental influences and individual differences in language to characterize developmental trajectories.