

Thursday, January 31st 2019, 2pm ET

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The role(s) of selective attention in speech comprehension & aphasia rehabilitation

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There is ample evidence that executive functions are recruited to support speech comprehension in challenging listening situations, and also are recruited to support communication in some individuals with aphasia. Much of the previous work examining how executive functions are involved in speech comprehension has focused on working memory. However, selective attention has been shown to be a critical underlying mechanism for executive functions, including working memory, yet is largely understudied regarding its potential role in speech comprehension and aphasia rehabilitation. A better understanding of the roles of selective attention in speech comprehension may provide new avenues of aphasia prognostics and rehabilitation. I will present a series of our recent neuroimaging and behavioral findings in individuals with chronic aphasia and neurotypical adults that indicate that different selective attention resources are recruited for different types of speech comprehension, and that selective attention and working memory abilities each predict different types of speech comprehension abilities. These findings have contributed to our development of a functional neuroanatomical model of the executive function brain networks that contribute to speech comprehension in everyday, complex situations. Ongoing initial experiments attempting to use individualized executive function and neurobiological profiles to optimize communication with individuals with aphasia also will be discussed.

Room #140, Discovery I, 915 Greene Street, Columbia, SC 29208

Date: Thursday, January 31st 2019, Time: 2pm – 3pm EDT

The viewing event will be catered!

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