

Jia'en Yee (University Putra Malaysia): Multilingualism effects on brain structure

A growing body of research has suggested that the acquisition and processing of a second language leads to structural changes in the brain (Hayakawa & Marian, 2019; Pliatsikas, 2019). However, the trajectory and limits of these adaptations remain unclear, particularly so with increasing language experience and expertise such as the acquisition and processing of a third or fourth language. This talk highlights the structural adaptations relating to bilingualism and reviews the available evidence in the effects of multilingualism. Parallels and contrasts will be drawn between bilingualism and multilingualism using theoretical frameworks like the Dynamic Restructuring Model (Pliatsikas, 2020). Finally, some fresh evidence from monolinguals, bilinguals and multilinguals will be presented to show the dynamic process of subcortical restructuring, and more specifically demonstrate the concept of structural renormalisation with increasing language experience.