Departmental Seminar (Via Zoom)
(Theme: Learning and learnability in linguistics)

Learning and Production of Phonological Variation

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. │September 2, 2022 (Friday)

Dr. Youngah DO
Associate Professor
Department of Linguistics
The University of Hong Kong

Abstract
In all domains in linguistics, categorical variation exists, e.g., English be vs. get passives. Compared to other linguistic variation, phonological variation is much more gradient, because it encompasses subcategorical phonetic adjustments, with many categories occupying a continuous range of values, e.g., English /u/-fronting. Moreover, many phonological patterns are grounded in physiological properties, e.g., /ki/ → [tʃi] alternation, which is motivated by articulatory, acoustic, and perceptual factors that enhance its learnability. This talk presents a series of phonological variation learning studies, from which I show how phonological patterns' inherent gradience and physical grounding shape learning. Based on the findings, I propose learning biases specific to phonological learning, in line with the idea of embodied cognition, wherein cognition is claimed to depend on aspects of the agent's body.

About the Speaker
Dr. Youngah Do is associate professor of linguistics. Her research mainly examines language learning and its relation to human learning more generally, through experimentation and computational simulation. She has published her work in journals including *Language, Phonology, Journal of Child Language and Cognition,* among others.

Zoom Meeting
https://hku.zoom.us/j/3951550048?pwd=SncvL3RYakEycUtpL29vdDJEdlEwdz09
Meeting ID: 395 155 0048 │Password: psyc

~All are Welcome~

Enquiry: rpsyc@hku.hk