



Department of Psychology
The University of Hong Kong
香港大學心理學系

Nov
27
2025

Departmental Seminar

Multimodal Aspects of Literacy and Math Acquisition: Preliminary Results from a Twin Study in Hong Kong Primary School Children



Prof. Urs Maurer

Associate Professor
Department of Psychology
Chinese University of Hong Kong

2:00p.m. – 3:00p.m.

Chamber, 11/F
The Jockey Club Tower
Centennial Campus
The University of Hong Kong

About the talk:

Literacy and math are essential skills that children learn at school. Difficulties in acquiring these skills manifest in neurocognitive development under the influence of both genetic and environmental factors. We are currently conducting a twin study in Hong Kong to investigate the interplay between environment, genes, brain function, and cognitive skills. In this talk, I will introduce the study and present some preliminary findings. I will first present some details on our online assessment website that we have developed for this project. I will then summarize findings from two genetic studies on language and literacy, and on the development of cognitive skills. Finally, I will present findings from our EEG studies on effects of neural print tuning in L1 Chinese and L2 English and on incongruency effects in reading and math. At the end, I will integrate these results in the perspective of the ongoing project.

About the speaker:

Professor Urs Maurer is an Associate Professor at the Department of Psychology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

His research focuses on cognitive and neural aspects of spoken and written language processing. He is particularly interested in reading acquisition, dyslexia, and second language learning. One goal of his work is to use neural markers of language processing to inform screening and intervention practices for dyslexia. His research involves behavioral and functional neuroimaging techniques, such as EEG and fMRI.

He received his PhD at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. He then pursued postdoctoral studies at the University of Zurich and at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University in New York City. Before joining the Chinese University of Hong Kong he was an Assistant Professor at the University of Zurich, funded through the Swiss National Science Foundation's prestigious research professor scheme. He is currently the Vice President of the Association for Reading and Writing in Asia (ARWA).

Zoom Meeting (For participants who couldn't attend the Seminar in person)

<https://hku.zoom.us/j/6985555998?pwd=V05yTGJWNTlzaZd2OFZ0Q3FRcHVkdz09>

Meeting ID: 698 555 5998 | Password: Psyc

~ All are Welcome ~

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