

***Delayed Merge in L1 Acquisition
as a Problem of Bilingualism and Molecular Genetics***

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Invited speaker

The present talk tries to give some general insights about Language acquisition and impairments from a Radically Minimalist point of view (Krivochen, 2011a, b, c, d; Kosta et.al., 2011). This theory tries to integrate the study of Language into the study of general physical systems, under the assumption that, if the thesis that Language is a “part of the natural world” is on the right track, it is ultimately a physical system and, optimally, it must obey the same very basic principles.

Our goal, from a theoretical point of view, will be to develop a stipulation-free theory about the generative capacity in the human mind and explain the specificity of the so-called “Language Faculty” from the interaction between that general-purpose working area in which Merge applies blindly and unboundedly and the relevant interfaces, PF and LF.

On the empirical side, we will concentrate on highly controversial phenomena, namely the recursion mechanism and internal and external merge in normal and impaired language acquisition and development of 1,8 to 12,5 aged children. This inquiry will lead us to review the current views on Merge, Move and so-called “empty categories”, pursuing a model as minimalist as it can be, in both a substantive and a methodological level.