



Lecture

SILVINA MONTRUL

Linguistics and Spanish, Italian & Portuguese
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Friday, April 18, 2008

3:30 pm

Mary Gates 241

Reception to follow

Unraveling Heritage Language (Re)acquisition

In recent years, the face of the traditional second language education has changed dramatically. In addition to serving typical second language learners, classes have had to accommodate an increasing number of heritage speakers. Montrul will discuss how heritage language acquisition differs from first language acquisition by children and second language acquisition by adults. She suggests that the heritage speaker population is very relevant for second language acquisition because it allows us to address fundamental theoretical debates in the field from a different perspective, including the role of age, input and environment: linguistic mechanisms, and the type of linguistic knowledge acquired before and after a critical period.

Silvina Montrul is Associate Professor in the Departments of Linguistics and Spanish, Italian & Portuguese at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is author of *The Acquisition of Spanish* (2004), *Incomplete Acquisition in Bilingualism* (2002), and *Re-examining the Age Factor* (forthcoming). Her areas of expertise are linguistic and psycholinguistic approaches to adult second language acquisition and bilingualism, in particular syntax, semantics and morphology. She is also interested in language loss and retention in minority language-speaking bilinguals.

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