



# Lecture

## FRED GENESEE Psychology, McGill University

Friday, October 19, 2007  
3:30–5:00 pm  
Mary Gates Hall 241  
Reception to follow

### Bilingual First Language Acquisition: Exploring the Capacity of the Language Faculty

Children who grow up learning two or more languages simultaneously provide a unique opportunity to explore the capacity of the language faculty. Such children were once thought to be at risk for delayed or impaired language development. It was also believed that the early stages of bilingual acquisition were essentially monolingual, with a fused or undifferentiated system of languages. Findings from recent research paint a radically different picture, one of bi- and possibly even multilingual innate competence for language acquisition. This lecture will discuss the cognitive and linguistic implications of recent findings on bilingual infants.

**Fred Genesee** is Professor of Psychology at McGill University. He has served on the board of directors for Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages for seven years, including as President. His current research interests include language acquisition in pre-school bilingual children, cross-language adopted children, and the language and academic development of at-risk students in bilingual programs. He is the author of professional and scientific research reports and books, including *Dual Language Development and Disorders* (2004), *Beyond Bilingualism: Multilingualism and Multilingual Education* (1998), and *Educating Second Language Children* (1994). For more information please visit [www.simpsoncenter.org/bilingualism](http://www.simpsoncenter.org/bilingualism).

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