



TGIF: The NTU Linguist Chatroom

**Join us! Friday, 17 February 2017, 3.30pm
@ HSS-SEM-RM3 (HSS-B1-10)**

Representations and processes in speech perception

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Speech perception can be thought of as a process that converts sounds into meanings. It is a process that involves various parts of the brain. On the input side, speech sounds are concrete as their acoustic properties can be described in physical terms. Whereas on the output side, the meanings of spoken utterances are abstract in a way that the semantic properties of words have little association with how the words are pronounced.

In this talk, I will present a series of studies to look at such hierarchical organisation, from concrete to abstract, of the hearing brain. I will first present neuroanatomical findings from an experiment in which we identified white matter pathways that mediate performance in a sound-to-word learning programme. This has led us to develop a model of how speech is processed and represented.

Speaker



DR. FRANCIS WONG is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies at Nanyang Technological University. Prior to joining NTU, he worked as a postdoctoral fellow at Northwestern University where he received training on the use of neuroimaging methods, such as fMRI and DTI, to study learning induced neuroplasticity. He obtained his Ph. D. from The Chinese University of Hong Kong with a dissertation on computational modelling.

