

Linguistics Research Seminar Series 2008

**Monday, October 20 at 11.00 am
Linguistics seminar Room - W5C221**

**Dr. Elisabeth Harrison
Linguistics Department, Macquarie University**

Stuttering and Bilingualism in Young Children

Stuttering is a developmental speech disorder with a prevalence of around 8% in preschool age children. Onset of stuttering typically occurs when children are aged between 3 and 4 years, during a period of rapid development in their expressive language. An efficacious treatment, the Lidcombe Program (LP), has been developed by Australian researchers for young children who stutter. Research findings clearly show that the LP is maximally effective during the preschool years. Since this treatment is delivered by parents during everyday conversations with children, it is therefore potentially possible for bilingual families to use the treatment. This seminar will highlight the small amount of research in this area and how it is used to guide treatment implementation. Issues such as determining the 'best' language/s to use with parents and children during treatment, accurate identification of stuttering severity in two languages, and measuring generalisation of treatment outcomes across languages, will be included.