

## **Linguistics Research Seminar Series 2008**

**Monday, September 15 at 11.00 am  
Linguistics seminar Room - W5C221**

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### **The role of L2 socialisation in L1 maintenance and L2 learning in late bilingualism: The case of Korean-English late bilinguals in New Zealand**

This paper considers the socio-/psycholinguistic aspects of second language (L2) socialisation in first language (L1) maintenance and L2 learning in two Korean-English late bilinguals in a New Zealand context. These young adult L2 users were selected from a larger pool of Korean-English bilingual participants who had arrived in New Zealand during their adolescence. Their L1/L2 skills were measured through various tasks and their personal histories of L2 socialisation and language use patterns were elicited via a questionnaire and follow-up interviews. Analysis of these participants' personal histories and language use patterns reveals that social/psychological factors operating in L2 socialisation have an important bearing on their L1 maintenance as well as L2 learning. The findings highlight different pathways of their L1 maintenance and L2 learning and the important role of L2 socialisation in adolescent late bilingualism. Implications for L1 support for adolescent L2 learners are discussed.