



21st SFB-Colloquium, Friday, 26 April 2024, 12.15 pm
University of Potsdam, Campus Golm, Building 10, Room 0.26

At the invitation of projects C03, C04 and C07

Prof. [Sharon Peperkamp](#), PhD (Laboratoire de Sciences Cognitives et
Psycholinguistique, Paris)
will give a talk on

Word recognition in late bilinguals

Abstract

Learning a foreign language is difficult, in part because of differences in sound structure: compared to our native language, a foreign language may use - among other things - unfamiliar vowels and consonants, unfamiliar syllable structures, and unfamiliar stress or tonal contrasts. As our speech perception system is tuned to the sound structure of our native language, such differences impede faithful perception of non-native speech. As a consequence, word recognition during speech processing may be slower and more error-prone in a foreign compared to in the native language, even for advanced learners. Yet, some aspects of non-native sound structure are more difficult to master than others. I will present three case studies that explore each its own way what late learners may hope to achieve with or without specific training. We will see that there is both good news and bad news, and discuss reasons for the variability in learning outcomes.

Everyone is cordially invited.

Please note: there will be **scientific warm-up**, especially for MGK members but others are welcome.

Friday, 26 April 2024, 10-11 am, Campus Golm, Building 10, Room 0.26.

Preparatory reading:

Melnik, G. & S. Peperkamp (2021). [High-variability phonetic training enhances second language lexical processing: evidence from online training of French learners of English](#). *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, 24, 497-506.