Ph.D. Program in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences

Spring 2016 Colloquium
Wednesday, May 11, 2016
2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Room 7102

Dr. Jennifer S. Pardo
Montclair State University


ABSTRACT:

Phonetic convergence is emerging as a prominent phenomenon in many psycholinguistic accounts. Also referred to as speech imitation, accommodation, or alignment, this subtle tendency for individuals’ speech to increase in similarity occurs with mere exposure to speech and during conversational interaction. From its beginnings in the literature on speech accommodation, to its adoption by the psycholinguistic literature, the phenomenon has informed a broad array of theories of social interaction and cognitive systems. Within psycholinguistics, studies of phonetic convergence have addressed questions involving memory systems, talker sex, speech perception, conversational interaction, sound change, phonological representation, individual differences, and neuro-linguistics. This talk aims to consolidate findings in the literature on phonetic convergence, to evaluate methodological practices, and to narrow down some of the factors believed to influence phonetic convergence. As a potential mechanism for language acquisition and sound change, phonetic convergence reflects a complex relationship between speech perception and production that is currently beyond the scope of many psycholinguistic accounts.