

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

Fall 2017 Colloquium

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., **Room 9206**

Dr. Erika Hoff
Florida Atlantic University

*“What Bilingual Children Teach Is About Language
Development.”*

Abstract:

In this talk, I will advance the hypothesis that language acquisition is more fragile and dependent on environmental support than is generally recognized. The evidence comes from studies of children who are exposed to two languages but who, it turns out, do not equally acquire both languages. These are typically-developing children raised in Spanish-speaking homes in the U.S. Children in this circumstance tend to learn English more rapidly and ultimately more successfully than they learn Spanish. The talk will present evidence that explains why Spanish is vulnerable while English is robust, thereby revealing the multiple environmental supports that operate in successful language acquisition.

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