

CBS Research Seminar

Investigating motivation for language and reading

Date: 22 Nov 2023 (Wed)
Time: 5:00pm - 6:00pm (HKT)
Venue: Online via Zoom

Zoom ID: 925 2441 8249
Passcode: 557055
(Scan the QR code to join)

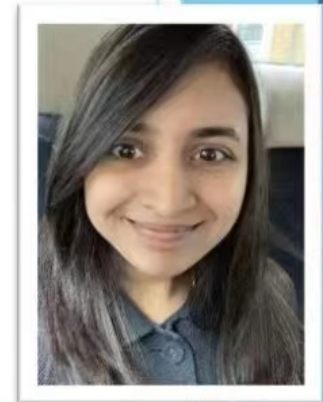


JOIN NOW

Presented by

Prof. Saloni KRISHNAN

Royal Holloway, University of London



Abstract:

Reward and motivation are known to boost learning. Yet, very little is known about how being motivated could affect language learning or reading. Here, I present ways to investigate states of motivation for language, rather than the trait of being motivated. Using three new paradigms, I will demonstrate that word learning is associated with intrinsic reward in adults and children, using behavioural and brain imaging data. I will also show that people are willing to incur costs for word learning and for reading, revealing their intrinsic motivation for seeking information through language and reading. I will then discuss future directions for this work, including how this might be relevant to designing more optimal learning environments for neurodivergent learners.

Speaker Bio:

Saloni Krishnan is a developmental cognitive neuroscientist whose research focuses on brain differences in childhood communication disorders, such as DLD (developmental language disorder) and dyslexia. Saloni is an Academy of Medical Sciences Springboard Award Holder and an MRC New Investigator. With this funding, Saloni is leading a team focusing on investigating the links between motivation and language learning. Saloni has won several prizes for her research, including the Neil O'Connor Award from the British Psychological Society. She was named a Rising Star by the Association of Psychological Sciences in 2022. Her research has featured on the BBC, the Guardian, Daily Mail, and the Boston Globe. She serves as an editorial board member at Communications Psychology, an associate editor at the International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders, and an affiliate editor at the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry. She is a committee member of the British Psychological Society's Developmental section and a member of the UK Young Academy.