

Keynote Lecture

In the Beginning was the Word

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In this presentation, Dr. Grigorenko will review the work on the manifestation, course, and etiology of developmental language disorders (DLD) that has been unfolding in her laboratory. She will provide a general overview of the field and then illustrate its various views with specific studies completed in her laboratory. Dr. Grigorenko will sample research from different contexts and different participant samples. Specifically, she will (1) delineate the current frontiers of the field with regard to its major empirical challenges and existing theoretical tensions; (2) indicate the field's point of growth; and (3) outline the field's perceived misconceptions. Dr. Grigorenko will primarily sample empirical research from her laboratory comparing and contrasting a (typical) language acquisition (1) in mono- and multilingual contexts; (2) by children developing in their biological families and orphaned children; and (3) by children with and without DLD. She will sample different languages (Arabic, African languages, English, and Russian) and countries (high- and middle- and low-income). In terms of the methodologies, she will illustrate the relevant empirical and theoretical points using behavior, brain, and genetic approaches. She will conclude with an overall statement regarding the potential points of growth for the field and the description of the relevant research ongoing in her laboratory.