

A public lecture: All are welcome

Distinguished Language Science Colloquium

Penn State University
Center for Language Science

with support from:

Social Science Research Institute
Center for Social, Life, and Engineering Sciences Imaging Center
Clinical and Translation Science Institute
Penn State Institute of the Neurosciences
Department of Psychology
Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese
Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders



Ellen Bialystok

Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology
York University, Canada

Reshaping the Mind: The Benefits of Bilingualism

Thursday, November 17, 2011

4-5:30 pm

**Berg Auditorium
100 Life Sciences Building**

A growing body of research has shown that bilingualism enhances aspects of executive control and leads to better performance on a range of cognitive tasks for children and young adults. More recently, this advantage has been shown to extend into older age, demonstrating slower cognitive decline for bilinguals with healthy aging. The present talk

will focus on new research that examines changes in the brain that underlie some of these differences. I will report evidence from younger and older adults showing that the regions used by bilinguals to perform certain cognitive tasks are somewhat different than those used by monolinguals, and that the crucial areas in the front part of the brain necessary for performing these tasks are more intact in bilinguals. The presentation will also describe research investigating the memory and cognitive performance of individuals diagnosed with dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, where these protective effects continue to exert an influence on bilinguals.

For additional information contact Judith Kroll (jfk7@psu.edu).