

BAS**British Aphasiology Society****NEWSLETTER****SPRING 2009**

**British Aphasiology Society
Biennial International Conference
9th – 11th September 2009
University of Sheffield**

Invited Speakers include:

**Matt Lambon Ralph
Jane Marshall
Margaret Naeser
Carole Pound
Ian Robertson
Sophie Scott**

*Programme includes:***UPDATE TALKS:**

**Sentence processing in aphasia;
Social model and its application to
aphasia**

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES:

**Semantic processing deficits
TMS effects on anomia in non fluent
aphasia
Theories of brain recovery
Auditory processing**

COSTS:

Full package (registration, conference dinner, three nights b and b accommodation):	£340
Conference registration (early bird to 01.07.09):	£210
Late booking rate:	£250
Day rate:	£100
Student / unwaged:	£120
Conference dinner:	£30

To book a conference place please go to: www.ncore.org.uk

Venue and Social Programme:

The conference will take place at The Edge, the University of Sheffield's new purpose built conference venue.

Bed and Breakfast accommodation is available at The Edge. Alternative accommodation can be found via the BAS website.

Conference guests will enjoy a free Evening Wine Reception on Wednesday 9th September. The Conference Dinner will take place on Thursday 10th September.



**RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND
COMMUNICATION**

**CENTRE FOR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE
THERAPY RESEARCH**

Facilitating links between research and clinical practice



British Aphasiology Society

**Research in Progress
Meeting**

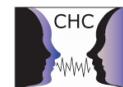
University College London

23 April 2009

**Are you carrying out or planning to do
research in an academic or clinical
environment?**

**Would you like to come along and hear
about current research in progress?**

The topic of the day is
'Measuring change in aphasia'.
A key theme will be measuring change
in conversation
(Suzanne Beeke, Wendy Best, UCL).



Organised and sponsored by the UCL Centre for Human
Communication

www.chc.ucl.ac.uk/workshops/workshop08.html

**Registration and Programme details
to follow**

**Please check www.bas.org.uk
regularly for updates**

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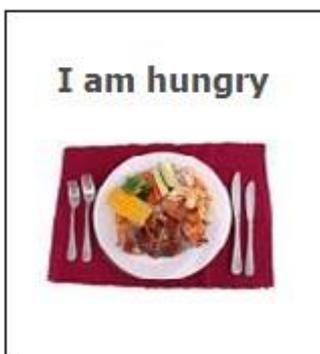
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www.bas.org.uk

New resources from Speakability

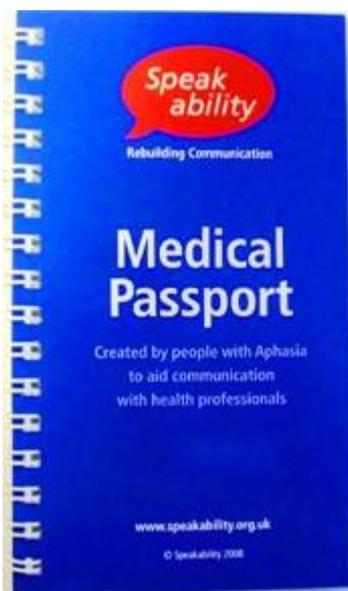
Speakability have launched new communication tools, enabling people with Aphasia to have more say about the things that affect them in everyday life.

The **Communication Board** has been created to assist people who are in the early stages of aphasia recovery and is ideal for use in hospitals and nursing homes. It is an A4 laminated card, featuring 15 photographs with matching phrases related to basic personal needs. The Board also includes the numbers one to ten, the letters of the alphabet, and icons for Yes and No.



Speakability says "The Board returns control of conversation to the individual, offering them a much greater degree of independence and increasing their self-esteem. In turn, their carers, family and friends, can be confident that they understand the wishes of the person who has lost their language skills".

The **'Medical Passport'** is a pocket-sized, 34-page conversation book comprising icons, pictures and words relating to health matters. The Passport aims to enable a person with Aphasia to discuss their medical needs with their doctor on an 'equal' basis.



By being in possession of their own medical communication tool, a person with Aphasia instantly regains a sense of control over their ability to communicate, and in a situation where it is most needed.

The idea for this tool came from people with Aphasia who are desperate to communicate their health issues to their doctor. These individuals have been instrumental in helping to develop the contents of the 'Medical Passport' to ensure that it fulfils all their requirements as a patient.



Melanie Derbyshire, Speakability

Connect wins 2008 Robin Tavistock Award

The Robin Tavistock Award 2008 has been awarded to Connect – the communication disability network.

This award, named after Robin Tavistock, the 14th Duke of Bedford who founded The Tavistock Trust for Aphasia, is presented annually to a person, or group, who has made a significant contribution in the field of aphasia.

Connect works in partnership with people who live with aphasia to promote effective services, new opportunities and a better quality of life for everyone living with aphasia.

Connect pilots and evaluates effective and economical services and models of good practice. Connect's unique work is enabling people with aphasia to re-connect with life again. As one person with aphasia said, *'after my stroke my life was over, but then Connect made it start again'*.

The award was presented by Henrietta, Duchess of Bedford on 9 December at a ceremony at The Kings Fund, Cavendish Square. The Duchess said, 'We are delighted that the first Robin Tavistock Award to be given to a group should go to Connect. Their impact and influence on how people with aphasia can re-connect with life has been both inspirational and widespread. Since Sally Byng and Carole Pound began Connect, the team has pioneered work in this field – and they continue to do so, through projects such as 'Access to Life' in Cornwall'.



L-R: Sally Byng, Henrietta, Duchess of Bedford, and Phyllis Campbell-McRae

Phyllis Campbell-McRae, Chief Executive of Connect says 'We are honoured to be the first organisation chosen to receive this prestigious award. The 14th Duke of Bedford, and his vision in founding the Tavistock Trust is a continued inspiration to us all at Connect. Without the support and encouragement of the Tavistock Trust for Aphasia, Connect would not have achieved all that it has over the last eight years.

This is the third award that Connect have received in the past few months; they were awarded a 2008 Guardian Public Services award for their *Reaching Out* project, and a BUPA Communication Award for their *Training Together* programme.

For more information visit:



www.ukconnect.org



THE TAVISTOCK TRUST FOR APHASIA
Registered Charity No. 1015323

www.aphasiatavistocktrust.org

Are you thinking of attending a conference? Do you need financial support?**If so, look no further. BAS has two funds:**

- **BAS Events Grants** support people attending the BAS International Conference or Therapy Symposium. You may apply for up to £200.
- **The Support Fund for Conferences (non-BAS)** supports members attending other conferences. You may apply for up to £400. Overseas members may only apply to attend UK conferences.

NB This fund is only available to people who have been BAS members for at least a year.

Funding is available whether or not you are presenting work, but priority is given to presenters. Awards can cover registration, accommodation, travel expenses and other essentials. Applications are considered by the BAS Committee in June. You may submit a retrospective application for a conference you have already attended this year. BAS is particularly keen to support members who have limited access to funding from other sources.

NB: If you have previously received funding, you may not re-apply for at least 2 years.**For further information and an application form:** Visit www.bas.org.uk or contact:

Deborah Cairns, BAS Conference Support Fund Organiser

Email: conference-support-fund@bas.org.ukThe deadline for applications is **Friday 29th May 2009****Please receive the BAS newsletter by e-mail!**

Everyone who has an e-mail address will now receive the newsletter via e-mail, unless a hard copy is specifically requested.

If you currently receive the newsletter by post but have an e-mail address, please help to reduce costs by contacting Annette Cameron, BAS Membership Secretary with your e-mail address at membership-secretary@bas.org.uk.

Note from Treasurer

I would like to thank you for your continued support for BAS. Membership subscriptions are our main source of income and allow us to continue our work in promoting knowledge about and research into aphasia. As a society, our events are for the benefit of our members; this means that people have to be members to participate in the events. Could I please also encourage you to check that you are paying the correct amount, particularly if you pay by standing order. There are still a few members paying at the old rate of £12; the extra £3 per member is not a lot but does influence what we can do on your behalf. With thanks, Janet.

Research Round Up

Emma Eaton

Between Thought and Language

Although it is a given that intelligence is not affected by aphasia, is there a border area between thought and language that could become impaired? Evidence for this is discussed, as the author argues for the existence of cognitive processes of "Thinking for Speaking" (Slobin 1996) and suggests that cueing and therapy approaches may be successful in helping people with aphasia to think about events in a way that makes them more easily communicated.

Marshall, J. (2009). Framing ideas in aphasia: the need for thinking therapy. *International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders* 44 (1), 1-14

SAQOL-39 in Spanish

SAQOL-39 was developed in the UK and validated for use with people with chronic aphasia following a stroke (Hilari et al. 2003). It is now widely used by clinicians in this country. It has already been translated into several languages such as Italian, Slovenian and Greek. This study examines its translation into Spanish and tests it with 23 people with aphasia to assess its acceptability and reliability. Positive results were demonstrated, but a larger study is needed to confirm these findings.

Lata-Caneda, M. C., Pineiro-Temprano, M., Garcia-Fraga, I., Garcia-Armesto, I, Barrueco-Egido, J. R., Meijide-Failde, R. (2009). Spanish adaptation of the Stroke and Aphasia Quality of Life Scale-39 (SAQOL-39). *European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine* 45 (epub ahead of print)

Word Class Differences in the Language of Schizophrenia

Goldberg and Goldfarb (2005) demonstrated that when given a homophonic homographic homonym which could be a noun or a verb (e.g. pound, as in pound of grapes/to pound the table), people with fluent aphasia tend to call to mind the verb meaning rather than the noun meaning, while the converse was true for people with non-fluent aphasia. This could represent a temporal lobe impairment in the case of the former group and a frontal lobe impairment for the latter. This study uses a similar method to compare 30 people with schizophrenia with 67 people with no neurological or psychiatric disorder. The people with schizophrenia tended to select noun meanings, while the controls tended to select verbs, although this was in line with patterns of frequency of occurrence. The authors argue that this provides evidence of noun-verb organisation in the brain, and also shows how the language of schizophrenia can be differentiated from fluent aphasia.

Goldfarb, R. & Bekker, N. (2009). Noun-verb ambiguity in chronic undifferentiated schizophrenia. *Journal of Communication Disorder* 42, 74-88



British Aphasiology Society

British Aphasiology Society Student Prizes 2008/9

The British Aphasiology Society invites entries for the Student Project Prize and Student Essay Prize

The BAS Student Project Prize:

£200 will be awarded for the best student project on any topic relating to acquired aphasia. The project or dissertation should have been submitted as part of the normal examination procedure in the final year of an undergraduate or postgraduate course (masters level). The prize will be divided equally between the winning student and his/her educational establishment.

The BAS Student Essay Prize:

£100 will be awarded for the best essay on any topic relating to acquired aphasia. Entrants should be undergraduate or postgraduate students (masters level). The prize will be divided on the basis of £75 to the winning student and £25 to his/her educational establishment.

Closing date for both prizes: 17/07/09

Guidelines for the student prizes are available on the BAS web page (www.bas.org.uk) or contact:

Heather Waldron (B.A.S. Student Prize Co-ordinator)
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'Penguins don't fly': an investigation into typicality and its effect on naming in people with aphasia

BAS 2007/8 Student Project Prize Winner **Claire Rossiter** reports on her winning project:

Many individuals with acquired aphasia have problems finding words. Previous research has highlighted a number of psycho-linguistic variables which affect naming ability for people with aphasia, including; *frequency, familiarity, age of acquisition and length*. However, the effect of *typicality*, the extent to which an item can be considered a prototype of a specific category, has not been studied in detail.

This project asked two main questions:

- *Can typicality be reliably rated across a range of natural semantic categories for people without aphasia?*
- *Does typicality influence picture-naming performance for people with aphasia?*

Normative Typicality ratings were collected from 32 participants for 167 items using a seven-point rating scale, in order to obtain an overall typicality rating for each item.

Using these ratings, the effect of typicality on naming was then examined for a group of 20 people with aphasia using matched sets and logistic regression analyses, for both the group as a whole, and individual participants.

Typicality

Results showed that typicality could be reliably measured as a concept, demonstrating a high degree of inter-study reliability for those items included in the current project and earlier studies (Rosch 1975, $r=.798$, $N=35$, $p<0.001$; Uyeda & Mandler 1980, $r=.844$, $N=47$,

$p<0.001$). However, potential limitations regarding reliably measuring typicality were also found. These predominantly involved issues surrounding the differing size and nature of semantic categories, with some categories being essentially more tangible and concrete than others. Significant correlations between typicality and other variables were also found.

Typicality in aphasia

For matched sets analysis, there was a significant typicality effect for the group and two individual participants, with better naming for typical items. Logistic regression analysis also showed a significant typicality effect for the group and five individual participants in the same direction. However, in regression analyses, typicality was found to be a weaker naming predictor than some other variables, in particular, age of acquisition.

Future Directions

Further investigation of how the internal structure of different semantic categories affects typicality and the relationship between typicality and age of acquisition may be of interest.

Thanks to the participants, to Jennie Grassley, Alison Greenwood, Ruth Herbert and Julie Hickin for the picture naming data and to Gordon Craig for statistical advice.

Finally, thanks to Wendy Best for her support, guidance and sense of humour throughout.

References:

Rosch, E., (1975) Cognitive representation of semantic categories. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 104, 192-233.

Uyeda, K.M., and Mandler, G., (1980) Prototypicality norms for 28 semantic categories. *Behaviour Research Methods and Instrumentation*, 12, 587-595.

The magic of good communication

Sally McVicker, Connect - communication disability network

Eighteen award-winning conversation partner schemes are now established across the country. Sally McVicker examines how a Connect conversation partner network is helping them flourish.

A Conversation Partner Scheme is a cost-effective service using volunteers who have conversations with people with aphasia in their own homes. Much is to be gained by sharing experience, mutual support and learning. So membership of the network was offered to anyone who wants to set up a scheme in their area and who had attended the Conversation Partner Toolkit training.

The network will be an e-mail liaison between stakeholders, with central contact twice a year from Connect, including an annual network meeting to which all stakeholders are invited. The aim is to establish a log of research evidence and statistics as a resource for anyone involved in setting up a scheme

At a gathering in January 2009, we had fifteen attendees from across the UK and Eire, representing 5 universities and 8 different NHS Trusts, with another fourteen apologies from representatives of another 9 schemes. They had trained 79 trainers with aphasia, trained some 434 students, and reached 234 people with aphasia in their own homes. The figures are encouraging and hit at the heart of the National Stroke Strategy, meeting Quality markers 10,12,13,15 and 16 for trainers with aphasia!

At the core of these schemes is the concept of partnership: Partnerships between University

and NHS, voluntary organisations and the NHS, Practice Educators in Eire and the Universities, local authorities, people with aphasia, and indeed Connect. Time needs to be invested in good working collaboration, but this pays off to ensure efficacy, motivation, maximise efficient use of time and skills.

The Scheme won the 2008 Guardian Public service Awards - Care of the Elderly category. The early pilot (McVicker 2008) showed that it supported those hard to reach – the elderly, and often severely or multi-disabled. The scheme aims to train and support 'volunteers' to provide good supported conversation (Kagan and Gailey 1993). The 'magic' of the training is delivered with the input and direct feedback of trainers with aphasia which inspires volunteers and can change participants perspective of aphasia "By putting myself into the shoes of the person with aphasia and thinking about how it **really** is"

The potential is exciting. There are a number of projects (and a PhD) underway to formally evaluate it. We have interest from the Retired and Senior Volunteer programme (RSVP) who are keen to collaborate on schemes across the UK. As one network participant put it "the toolkit saves time" in setting up a pilot! The next Conversation Partner scheme training course is on 20 and 21 May 2009 – and comes with an automatic invite to our network

More information: www.ukconnect.org Tel. 02073670840 email:events@ukconnect.org

References

Kagan, A. and Gailey, G (1993) Functional is not enough: Training conversation partners for aphasic adults. In A. Holland and M. Forbes (Eds.) *Aphasia Treatment: World Perspectives*. San Diego: Singular Press

McVicker, S. Parr, S. Pound, C. And Duchan, J. (2009) The Communication Partner Scheme: A project to develop long term, low cost access to conversation for people living with aphasia. *Aphasiology*, vol 23, no 1, pp 52 – 71

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Events Diary

April 23rd 2009

BAS Research in Progress day

University College London, UK

Check the website for updates

May 26th – 30th 2009

The 39th Annual Clinical Aphasiology
Conference

Keystone, Colorado, USA

September 9th-11th 2009

BAS Biennial International Conference

University of Sheffield, UK

Book now via www.ncore.org.uk

Check the website for updates

September 2010

BAS Therapy Symposium

University of Newcastle

Check the website for updates

Research Spotlight: Newcastle University

Welcome to our new regular feature. In each BAS newsletter, we will be asking an academic institution or organisation to tell us all about their current aphasia research. In this edition, we asked Newcastle University to share what they're up to:

The North East Aphasia Centre at Newcastle University, supported in part by the Tavistock Trust for Aphasia, celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2009. Over the last ten years, through a highly successful collaboration with the local SLT community, it has provided intensive speech and language therapy to people with aphasia, combining both group and individual therapy.

Many specialist speech and language therapists from both the university and local services have contributed to the Centre and this has provided a wealth of opportunity to take forward our research into aphasia whilst sharing ideas about assessment, therapy and how we evaluate therapy effects.

One of our more recent projects has been the development of the Newcastle University Aphasia Therapy Resources. Drawing together our experience within the Aphasia Centre and our use of theoretically motivated therapy, CD resources have been developed, to date, for therapy with verb and sentence processing, auditory processing and written comprehension – and we hope there will be more to follow in the fullness of time. This project has been funded by the Tavistock Trust for Aphasia and the resources are now available at www.ncl.ac.uk/aphasia or contact us at aphasia@ncl.ac.uk. Aphasia research in Newcastle is focused around several core strands.

These revolve around issues of elucidating processing models for language, of developing and validating new assessments, of evaluating therapy, and of working with people with aphasia to identify the important questions. **Julie Morris** and **David Howard**, together with **Frauke Buerk**, are currently exploring semantic processing in aphasia, particularly what therapy techniques are effective and what patterns of generalisation we observe.

David's research, in particular, revolves around his interest in the methodological questions about how therapy studies should be analysed and how, in evidence-based practice, evidence should be weighed and evaluated. The underlying motivation for this research is that data, when used carefully, from both non-aphasic people and people with aphasia, and from therapy studies from both individual participants and groups of subjects, can yield information about language processing that will result both in better theoretical understanding, in better assessment, and in better treatment of people with aphasia.

Janet Webster's research is currently focusing predominantly on verb and sentence processing, with particular emphasis on developing assessments that help us understand the nature of

continued...

Research Spotlight cont...

people's difficulties and investigating the efficacy of therapy targeting verb and sentence production.

Anne Whitworth, having recently completed a fellowship with the Health Foundation, complements the strong focus on verb and sentence processing, using intervention studies to test out processing models and, latterly, explore how narrative may be used to bridge the gap to real-life communication.

The team, as a whole, is committed to combining approaches in therapy into coordinated holistic therapy which draws on psycholinguistic, social and interactional models.

A range of interesting PhD projects also abound. **Heather Waldron**, funded by the Stroke Association, is looking at therapy for people with phonological assembly difficulties while **Christopher Plant** has secured ESRC funding to explore noun and verb organisation in the mental lexicon and the impact on treatment and generalisation in word-retrieval therapy for aphasia.

Caroline Tapster's work examines the use of an innovative computer programme focusing on sentence processing. Continuing a long tradition in Newcastle of applying conversation analysis (CA) in the clinical setting with people with aphasia, **Sonja Turner** is exploring what clinicians look for in deciding candidates for conversation partner training.

And aphasia research isn't all that happens in Newcastle. **Nick Miller**, alongside his interest in foreign accent syndrome, has an extensive programme of work around

communication changes in Parkinson's disease. He and his team have been looking at the nature and prevalence of speech and swallowing changes in Parkinson's, especially trying to fill in our knowledge about how the profile of change and support needs evolve over the course of the condition. The team has had a special emphasis on highlighting changes from the point of view of the person with PD and their families.

A further strand of work involves pursuing studies looking at the nature and underlying causes of apraxia of speech. Alongside previous studies of the clinical manifestations, **Nick, Nicole Lallini** (our latest addition to the team) and David Howard have commenced a series of cross language studies of apraxia of speech to gain more insights into the motor v's phonology debate around the disorder.

Nicole is also currently working on the vast data collected during her PhD focusing on the effect of phonological neighbourhood density and phonotactic probability on output accuracy in people with acquired output impairment. As well as addressing crucial methodological controversies, Nicole's work has direct relevance to clinical issues in assessment and treatment of speech disorders.

Kath Mumby's work draws these different areas together in her investigations into apraxia of speech and grammar in aphasia, as she explores new perspectives on clinical issues.

continued...



The Newcastle University Aphasia Research Team

The team at Newcastle is completed by our two Clinical Educators, **Helen Nazlie** and **Pauline Meek**, who contribute to the complex organisation of student training in the Aphasia Centre.

While we remain a highly active research group, we are also actively involved with people with aphasia. This is shown through our work with the charity, North East Trust for Aphasia (NETA), whose trustees are predominantly people with aphasia and their carers, in the NETA Aphasia Support Centre. Managed by **Rose Hilton**, the Support Centre is run within the same premises, and offers

longer term support where activities are led by the users. Again, the NETA Aphasia Support Centre is now firmly embedded within the local SLT services who are key stakeholders and who will play a large part, along with its members, in shaping its future. Our involvement extends to all of our therapy and research work, where user groups are consulted on changes, developments and projects. In celebration of and to develop our engagement with people with aphasia, we have recently received funding to develop a social meeting place (the Aphasia Café) for people with aphasia. This will compliment our existing work. For more information on NETA, see www.neta.org.uk.

Would your organisation or institution like to feature in a future edition of the BAS newsletter?

Please contact newsletter@bas.org.uk for more information