



International Biennial Conference, 6-8 September 2011

4th call for abstracts

The 2011 British Aphasiology Society conference will be held at the University of Reading, UK (Whiteknights campus). Abstracts are invited from *any* area relating to the study and treatment of aphasia, e.g. stroke, traumatic brain injury, dementia.

Keynote Speakers

| | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Anna Basso | University of Milan | Susan Edwards | University of Reading |
| Pam Enderby | University of Sheffield | Faustina Hwang | University of Reading |
| Aura Kagan | Aphasia Institute, Toronto | Alex Leff | University College London |
| Rosemary Varley | University of Sheffield | Anne Whitworth | University of Newcastle |

Please visit the conference website for updates: www.reading.ac.uk/pcls/BAS2011.aspx

Word processed abstracts should be submitted electronically to Christos Salis no later than **31 March 2011**. Abstracts should be **structured** under the following headings: background, method, results, discussion. Word limit is **400 words** and authors should cite no more than **4 references**. Abstracts must not contain figures or tables.

All contributing authors should be named in the abstract with their respective affiliations and contact details. A single corresponding author should be clearly identified. Abstracts will be reviewed anonymously. Authors will be notified at the beginning of May 2011. For enquiries please contact: Christos Salis (Chair of organising committee) c.salis@reading.ac.uk

In order to attend the conference you must be a member of BAS (this includes students and people with aphasia). Membership offers a range of benefits. For more information and how to enrol please visit www.bas.org.uk

Book your place - see page 2 for details



International Biennial Conference, 6-8 September 2011

| | Early bird (until 5 August 2011) | Standard price (From 6 August 2011) |
|---|---|--|
| Full conference 3 day registration & conference dinner | £280 | £300 |
| Full conference and accommodation 3 day registration, 3 nights B&B en-suite campus accommodation, & conference dinner | £420 | £440 |
| Day rate | £120 | £130 |
| Student rate 3 day registration only | £140 | £160 |
| Day student rate | £90 | £100 |
| Conference dinner Wednesday 7 th September 2011 | £47 | £47 |

Note: the STUDENT RATES will also apply to people with aphasia

To book go to www.ncoreadmin.co.uk – click on ‘events’.

Accommodation: Further details will be announced shortly. Please check either the BAS or conference websites for updates.

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Connect Representative

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We are very pleased that we now have a representative from Connect on the BAS committee. Alex Stirling, Specialist Development Manager, tells us about her role:

I have been working as Specialist Development Manager at Connect since June 2010, after many years as a Speech and Language Therapist in the NHS and in Higher Education. This was a new post, jointly funded by the Tavistock Trust for aphasia and the Charles Wolfson Charitable trust.

My role is to oversee the activities that run at/from the London Centre. These are peer led activities, that is, developed and led by people with aphasia, supported by volunteers. These include various groups (e.g. conversation, music, photography).

We also have a counselling service run by Harry Clarke who has first hand experience of stroke and aphasia.

We run a befriending scheme (where befrienders have stroke and aphasia) and a conversation partner scheme (where volunteers without aphasia visit a person with aphasia in their own homes).

New initiatives at Connect include the Hubs Project, (groups of active citizens with aphasia), run by my colleague Alan Hewitt, the Ambassadors Project, Carer's befriending Scheme, and peer led art workshops at Tate Modern. We also have new facebook and twitter pages.

For more information about our activities, training, publications etc. visit our website- www.ukconnect.org or telephone: 020 736 70840

Alex Stirling



Nursing, Midwifery and Allied
Health Professions Research Unit



Research in Progress

Tuesday 19th April 2011

Glasgow Caledonian University

Theme: Aphasia Therapy – Rehabilitation or Management?

The BAS Research in Progress Meeting is an ideal opportunity for clinicians and researchers to share and discuss issues arising from current or recently completed work in a supportive environment. The meeting is also an ideal opportunity to hear about current research activities, discuss the clinical applicability of research findings and explore the implications for future research.

Commissioning speech and language therapy for persons with aphasia

Pam Enderby, School of Health and Related Research, University of Sheffield

Does short-term memory training in aphasia improve short-term memory and sentence comprehension?

Christos Salis, University of Reading

Visual impairment following stroke - clinical practice, evidence of effectiveness and implications for aphasia rehabilitation and management

Alex Pollock, NMAHP Research Unit, Glasgow Caledonian University

Conversation-based therapy for aphasia: How do couples change their behavior

Fiona Johnson, University College London

Eye-tracking and syntactic deficits in Broca's aphasia

Leigh Fernandez, Cognition and Communication Research Centre, Northumbria University

Mechanisms of post-stroke language recovery: Evidence from Spanish and Basque

Vanja Kljajevic, Instituto Gerontologico Matia, San Sebastian, Spain

Speech and language therapy for aphasia – delivering evidence of effectiveness

Marian Brady, NMAHP Research Unit, Glasgow Caledonian University

Registration

To attend contact Kim Stewart kim.stewart@gcu.ac.uk for a registration form. The standard delegate rate is £10 (student delegate rate is £8).

Research Round-Up

Emma Eaton

Gesture Therapy for Word Retrieval

Evidence that gesture can actually facilitate word retrieval suggests that this may apply to the observation as well as the execution of gesture. However, it is thought that facilitation is more likely for people with phonological impairment than with semantic impairment. In this study, 4 people with aphasia characterised by phonological impairment improved on action naming whether treatment consisted of observing the relevant action gesture or observing and producing action gestures. Two other participants with aphasia characterised by semantic impairments did not show any benefit from the treatment. The authors argue that the kinesic motor system activated by the real execution of action or by observation directly interacts with the semantic system influencing word retrieval.

Marangolo, P., Bonifazi, S., Tomaiuolo, F., Craighero, L., Coccia, M., Alton, G., Provinciali, L. & Cantagallo, A. (2010): Improving language without words: First evidence from aphasia. *Neuropsychologia* 48 3824-3833

Review of the evidence for spatial segregation of nouns and verbs

Previous literature has proposed that noun processing occurs in the temporal areas of the brain whereas verb processing occurs in frontal areas. This review examines anatomo-correlative studies of people with brain damage and studies involving neuroimaging, TMS and cortical stimulation. It finds that the different studies produce inconsistent results, sometimes even when the same task-type is used. The authors argue that these inconsistencies cannot be explained by procedural differences alone, and that there is no overall evidence that neural circuits for nouns and verbs are spatially segregated.

Crepaldi, D., Berlingeri, M., Paulesu, E & Luzzatti, C. (2011): A place for nouns and a place for verbs? A critical review of neurocognitive data on grammatical-class effects. *Brain & Language* 116 33-49

Deep dyslexia revisited

It has been argued that semantic errors in reading aloud are rare because to occur, there must be damage both to lexical-semantic processing and to grapheme-phoneme conversion (GPC) processes. This is known as the summation hypothesis. However, most studies of deep dyslexia have been single case studies. This current study examines 340 people with aphasia, of whom 9 produce semantic errors in tasks of reading aloud. As predicted, these people were found to have lexical-semantic damage and GPC impairment. The crucial factor in the appearance of semantic errors appears to be the severity of the GPC impairment. Further epidemiological features of the participants with deep dyslexia are discussed.

Ciaghi, M., Pancheri, E. & Miceli, G. (2010): Semantic paralexias: A group-case study on the underlying functional mechanisms, incidence and clinical features in a consecutive series of 340 Italian aphasics. *Brain & Language* 115 121-132



British Aphasiology Society

British Aphasiology Society Student Prizes 2010/11

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: Friday 22nd July 2011

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)
Speech and Language Therapy Department
Chester Wing
Sunderland Royal Hospital
Kayll Road
Sunderland
SR4 7TP
Tel: 0191 5699009
e-mail: prizes@bas.org.uk

New online resource for people with aphasia

The Tavistock Trust for Aphasia is pleased to announce that they are funding a project to set up an online resource to enable people with aphasia, therapists and other interested parties to find, on one website, information about aphasia related software therapy programmes.

New research shows that it is possible for the brain to develop new capabilities to replace those lost by the damage caused by the stroke or injury. If the brain receives lots of stimulus then it reacts by growing new pathways – this can happen at any age and does not require the use of drugs or surgery. Realistically, it is not possible to provide each individual with aphasia with the intensive therapy to achieve sufficient stimulus necessary for most people. Neither the NHS, nor any other healthcare system, could afford to fund the volume of speech and language therapy needed to ensure that enough targeted practice is given to gain the maximum improvement in communication that all would hope for.

Although not a substitute for one-on-one speech and language therapy, research has shown that the use of computer

based treatment, in their own homes, can be very successful. It is not only a very cost effective way of getting ongoing therapy to those who need it, but it also provides a way in which people with aphasia can access regular therapy when no other may be available.



More and more software programmes, however, are being released on to the market and it is difficult for speech and language therapists, people with aphasia and their families and friends, to know which programme is best for whom. This website will make it easier for people to find the information they need to help them make informed choices.

The new website will be kept up to date as new software becomes available. The work is being carried out by the Speech & Language Therapy Research Unit based at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, under the leadership of Brian Petheram. The launch of the website is planned for late spring 2011.

The Tavistock Trust for Aphasia would like to thank The Eranda Foundation for its generous support, without which this project would not have been possible.

2010 student project prize winner Justine Green from University College London summarises her project “The effect of unfamiliar accent on immediate story recall in adults with aphasia”. She was supervised by Caroline Bruce and Caroline Newton.

This study investigated how unfamiliar accent affects the spoken response of individuals with aphasia and whether individual factors affect unfamiliar accent processing. Nineteen individuals with aphasia and nineteen without aphasia were assessed on a story recall test presented in a familiar Southern Standard British English accent and in an unfamiliar non-native Bengali accent.

All participants recalled the stories more accurately in the familiar accent; the adults with aphasia were not significantly more affected by accent than controls. However, the individuals with aphasia performed significantly worse than the individuals without aphasia. When adults with aphasia recalled material presented in a familiar accent the message was significantly affected and recall was incomplete but when they recalled the material in an unfamiliar accent the message was degraded to an extent that narrative structure and most of the meaning was lost.

Analysis of individual factors indicated that age had an effect only on individuals with aphasia and that individuals with conduction aphasia had significantly greater difficulty recalling stories presented in the unfamiliar accent than individuals with anomic aphasia.

These findings pose challenges for both health care services and speech and language therapists to consider more carefully the effects of unfamiliar accents on assessment and management of individuals with aphasia.



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. **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.

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.

The next submission date is Friday 13 May 2011

Grants for attendance at the BAS Conference (6-8th September 2011) will be increased from the usual maximum of £200 to cover the **full cost of registration** (excluding accommodation). Visit www.bas.org.uk/support.html for full details

If you have previously received funding, you may not re-apply for at least 2 years.

2010 student project prize runner-up Catherine Tattersall from the University of Sheffield summarises her project "The effect of phonological blocked cyclical naming on errors made by individuals with aphasia". She was supervised by Ruth Herbert.

This study investigated the effect of phonologically blocking object names on the error production of three fluent aphasic speakers. The effect of phonological blocking on naming performance is not well understood. For nonaphasic speakers, the effect obtained when producing sets of phonologically related words varies with the paradigm used as both facilitation (Damian, 2003; Roelofs, 2004) and inhibition (Roelofs, 2004; Sullivan & Riffel, 1999; Wheeldon, 2003) have been reported.

To date there is little published literature on the effects of phonological blocking on the naming performance of aphasic speakers. One unpublished study (Hodgson, Schwartz, Brecher & Schnur) compared the performance on a phonological version of the blocked, cyclical naming task used in Schnur, Schwartz, Brecher and Hodgson (2006) investigating semantic relatedness effects. For the nonaphasic group, naming latencies and errors decreased across the naming cycles and latencies were faster in the blocked compared to mixed condition. Like the controls, the participants with aphasia produced fewer errors with repeated presentations of the targets. Unlike the controls however, they produced more errors in the blocked (27%) compared to the mixed (24%) condition suggesting that for those with aphasia seeing items in phonologically blocked is detrimental or inhibitory to naming performance. However not all of the individuals with aphasia were susceptible to the blocking manipulation. In fact three notable cases performed better in the blocked condition compared to the mixed. In other words they showed facilitation in the phonologically blocked sets compared to the mixed. It was determined that these three patients had very weak phonological access which was aided by the phonological blocking manipulation.

Therefore if the phonological primes aided in retrieval of the target item then it is also possible that they influenced the types of errors made by the participants and as the errors overall decrease across cycles it may be possible to track the influence of the primes as the cycles progress and assess whether their errors become closer to the target with repeated presentation cycles.

Methods & Procedures: Pictured objects were presented in blocked and mixed sets repeated over four presentation cycles. Errors were compared to their targets using a phonetic feature based analysis and were analysed using a sonority principle analysis to assess its affect.

Outcome & Results: Two participants named significantly more items correctly in the blocked sets; the third showed a non significant trend in the same direction. Phonetic feature analysis indicated that errors for two of the participants became more like the targets (i.e. feature discrepancies reduced) with repeated presentation in the blocked but not mixed sets. Sonority analyses suggested that the errors produced were constrained by the sonority principle.

Conclusion & Implications: The blocking manipulation influenced error rates/types. The effects, however, seem dependent upon individual differences in the participants relating to severity of aphasia and degree of damage or disorganisation within the phonological system.

Catherine Tattersall

Royal Liverpool and Brodgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust

Introducing your new BAS Chair – Christos Salis



I am delighted to have been elected Chair of the British Aphasiology Society, following the retirement of Frauke Burke. I have been a member of the Society since 1998 and, since 2008, committee member, first, as Research in Progress co-ordinator and now as Chair.

I am originally from Greece and have lived in the UK since 1994. I trained as a Speech and Language Therapist in Edinburgh (QMU). Following that, I joined the University of Reading where I did my MA and PhD, both on agrammatic aphasia. As a clinician, I have worked in the Scottish Borders, Reading, Basingstoke and Portsmouth in community and hospital settings, primarily adult but also paediatric caseloads.

Currently, I work as a lecturer at Reading where I teach, mainly, adult acquired disorders of communication and clinical linguistics. My research interests are as follows: Sentence and discourse processing (comprehension and production) in aphasia, dementia and healthy older adults; treatment of sentence processing deficits in aphasia; linguistic analyses of interactions between carers and people with communication deficits (aphasia and dementia); aphasia and dementia in Greek-speaking individuals. I also have a clinical honorary contract with Berkshire West NHS and I practise as an academic clinician.

With the help of the committee, the aims of my tenure as Chair will be as follows:

- Work more closely with other stakeholders to promote the aims of the BAS
- Raise the profile of the BAS
- Develop communication between the committee and its members

This year my colleagues and I are hosting the Biennial International Conference on 6-8 September at the University of Reading. The conference was hosted in Reading for the first time in 1988. I look forward to meeting you then.

Events Diary

19 April 2011 Research in Progress day – Glasgow Caledonian University

6-8 September 2011 BAS Biennial International Conference – University of Reading

2012 Research in Progress day – to be held at Bangor University, Wales - Please check website/newsletter for updates

2012 BAS Therapy Symposium – to be held at City University, London – Please check website/newsletter for updates