Adaptation and implicit learning in L2 sentence processing:
Morphosyntactic variability

In this talk, I discuss the relationship between sentence processing and learning in adult L2 acquisition. I review recent sentence processing and priming studies that expose adult L2 learners to input designed to make learners process L2 morphosyntactic detail. These studies test whether and how quickly learners adapt their processing to grammatical patterns experienced in the input. Finding that L2 speakers rapidly adapt their grammatical processing to the target input, I sketch how adaptation in L2 processing can form the basis for implicit learning of L2 morphosyntax. I then discuss the limits of processing-based learning via adaptation by contrasting short-term adaptation and longer-term learning.