



## Distinguished Lecturer in Multilingualism and Language Learning

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### CONSEQUENCES OF BILINGUALISM FOR MIND, BRAIN, AND SOCIETY

The use of two or more languages is common in most places in the world. Yet, until recently, bilingualism was considered to be a complicating factor for language processing, cognition, and the brain. In the past 20 years, there has been an upsurge of research that examines the cognitive and neural bases of second language learning and bilingualism and the resulting consequences for cognition and for brain structure and function over the lifespan. Contrary to the view that bilingualism adds complication to the language system, the new research demonstrates that all languages that are known and used become part of the same language system. A critical insight is that bilingualism provides a tool for examining aspects of the cognitive architecture that are otherwise obscured by the skill associated with native language performance in monolingual speakers. In this talk I illustrate this approach and consider the consequences that bilingualism holds more generally for society when language learning and active bilingualism are encouraged.

**Wednesday,  
November 29, 2017  
3:00 p.m.**

Location: Louis Room,  
Norris University Center

Panel Discussion and Reception  
to follow

Free and open to the public.  
No tickets or reservations required.

For more information, contact  
[linguistics@northwestern.edu](mailto:linguistics@northwestern.edu)  
or call 847-491-4020

#### Panel Discussion with:

**Franziska Lys** (*Department of German*)

**Brian Edwards** (*Middle East and North African Studies  
Program, Department of English*)

**Ann Bradlow** (*Department of Linguistics*)