**HOW is the MIND PREPARED TO LEARN LANGUAGE?**

**a symposium with**

Stephen Crain, Macquarie University
Susan Goldin-Meadow, University of Chicago
Elissa Newport, University of Rochester

Friday, March 31, 2006
Pomona College
Hahn 101 • 420 N. Harvard Avenue, Claremont, CA

**Schedule of Events:**

1:00 p.m.  Professor Goldin-Meadow
1:50 p.m.  Professor Newport
2:35 p.m.  Coffee Break
3:00 p.m.  Professor Crain
3:50 p.m.  Roundtable
4:30 p.m.  Audience Questions
5:00 p.m.  Reception

Stephen Crain is Professor of Cognitive Science and the Deputy Director of the Macquarie University Centre for Cognitive Science, Australia. He received his Ph.D. in 1980 from the University of California, Irvine in Psychology. Program in Cognitive Science with an Emphasis in Linguistics. His research interests include acquisition of syntax and semantics, adult language processing, and neurolinguistics. His publications include two books. *An Introduction to Linguistic Theory and Language Acquisition and Investigations in Universal Grammar: A Guide to Experiments in the Acquisition of Syntax and Semantics*. Recent articles include: "Is Generative Grammar deceptively simple or simply deceptive?" in *Linguistics* and "Language acquisition is language change" in *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*. His research has been funded by NSF and the Australian Research Council.

Susan Goldin-Meadow is the Irving B. Harris Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Chicago. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1975. Her primary research interest is in nonverbal communication, especially gesture. Recent publications include her two books. *Hearing Gesture: How Our Hands Help Us Think and The Resilience of Language: What Gesture Creation in Deaf Children Can Tell Us About How All Children Learn Language*. She was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, a James McKeen Cattell Fellowship, and the Llewelyn John and Harriet Manchester Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. She was the President of the Cognitive Development Society and is the editor of the new journal sponsored by the Society for Language Development, *Language Learning and Development*. Her research has been funded by NIH, NSF, the Spencer Foundation and the March of Dimes.

Elissa L. Newport is the George Eastman Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences and Linguistics at the University of Rochester. She received her Ph.D. in Psychology from University of Pennsylvania in 1975. Her primary research interests are in language acquisition and its relation to language structure; the contribution of constraints on pattern learning in children to the occurrence of universal structures in languages. Recent publications include "Learning at a distance: 1. Statistical learning of non-adjacent dependencies" in *Cognitive Psychology* and "Short-term memory span: Insights from sign language" in *Nature Neuroscience*. Her research has been funded by the NIH, NSF, the McDonnell Foundation and the Packard Foundation. She is a recipient of the Claude Pepper Award of Excellence from NIH and she is a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

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