

Sofía Castro (Jagiellonian University): Bilingualism and the expression of stereotypes: the importance of executive control and motivation.

The impact of bilingualism in language and cognition – primarily executive control – has been extensively researched in the last few decades. However, little is known about the influence of bilingualism on social cognition. In this talk, I will discuss some evidence on how the knowledge of more than one language influences the processing of social information, focusing on the expression of stereotypes.

I will report the results from a project in which we evaluated the relationships between bilingualism and the expression of stereotypes. In this project, we considered bilingualism both as a categorical and a continuous variable. First, we compared the likelihood of expressing stereotypes between bilinguals and monolinguals and evaluated (1) the potential role of self-perceived executive control as the underlying mechanism behind the relationship between bilingualism and stereotype expression, (2) the influence of motivation, and (3) the importance of multicultural experience in the expression of stereotypes among bilinguals and monolinguals. Subsequently, we analysed which dimensions of the bilingual experience drive the relationship between bilingualism and stereotyping. The implications of this project will be discussed, as well as future directions in the study of the consequences of multilingualism in social cognition and stereotypes.