

## **SLAT COLLOQUIUM SERIES**

March 16, 2023 4:30 - 5:30 pm (Arizona time)

## Effects of mood and emotion on language

Dr. Vicky T. Lai
The University of Arizona

Please note that this event is taking place on a Thursday, rather than the usual Friday, and that the start time is a little later.

Please register for this event at: https://arizona.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrfuGpqikvG9wAoeMnuFsG

<u>v66YrqabDzyx</u> **The Zoom link will be sent to you after registration.** 

If you don't receive the Zoom information by the date of the event, please email GIDP-SLAT@arizona.edu.

Traditionally, word meaning representations are treated as entries in a mental lexicon, hence relatively static. In this talk, I will report several brainwave (ERP or Event Related Potential) studies that show that the cognitive-neural representations of words are fluid and flexible. To this end, we used mood and emotion to perturb word representations. In one study, we manipulated the speaker context by putting the language users in a positive or a negative mood before they read. In another study, we presented positive and negative facial emojis before words, to investigate the effect of emojis on subsequent words. Lastly, we used swear words as contexts and examined the processing of the nouns after the swears. Across all studies, significant changes were found, but the timings of the changes are earlier in language contexts than in speaker contexts. Implications for future research on the emotion-language interface will be discussed.



Dr. Lai is faculty in the Psychology Department and Cognitive Science Department and affiliated with SLAT at The University of Arizona. She directs the Cognitive Neuroscience of Language Laboratory (<a href="https://neurolang.lab.arizona.edu/">https://neurolang.lab.arizona.edu/</a>), where lab members use behavioral, electrophysiological, and imaging measures to study figurative language, emotion and language, and language and thought. Dr. Lai is an elected fellow in the Psychonomic Society. In 2022 she received two National Science Foundation grants: "Learning science concepts through metaphor comprehension, production, and conversation" and "Effects of context on emotional word processing in healthy younger and older adults".