



***Rethinking the role of the native and non-native  
language in the bilingual brain***

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Much psycholinguistic research has recently been conducted to examine different aspects of bilingual language processing, with a view to providing insights into how language information is stored in the bilingual brain as well as what variables influence the automaticity of non-native language (L2) processing. Less attention has, however, been devoted to showing how studying bilingual populations can broaden our knowledge also on cognitive mechanisms that govern native language (L1) processing. In this talk, I will report on behavioral (reaction times) and psychophysiological (skin conductance and EEG) studies that were aimed to examine different aspects of language processing in L1 and L2, including figurative and emotionally-laden language comprehension. I will discuss how testing bilingual populations on different aspects of language comprehension can provide us with novel and valuable information regarding the nature of cognitive mechanisms engaged in meaning processing in both L1 and L2.