

The psycholinguistic and neural consequences of bimodal bilingualism

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Bimodal bilinguals, fluent in a signed and a spoken language, exhibit a unique form of bilingualism because their two languages access distinct sensory-motor systems for comprehension and production. When a bilingual's languages are both spoken, the two languages compete for articulation (only one language can be spoken at a time), and both languages are perceived by the same perceptual system: audition. Differences between unimodal and bimodal bilinguals have implications for how the brain might be organized to control, process, and represent two languages. In this talk, I highlight recent results that illustrate what bimodal bilinguals can tell us about language processing and about the functional neural organization for language.