

Spoken language processing across the adult life span

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With advancing adult age, language users become more experienced users of their (native) language. This increased language experience, in terms of for instance increased vocabulary knowledge and better semantic networks for older compared to younger adult language users, may make up for possible negative age-related effects of hearing loss, speech motor control and cognitive decline on the production and perception of spoken language. In this talk I will show evidence of stability across the adult life span in the following three language domains: 1) perceptual adaptation for speech comprehension, 2) statistical learning upon presentation of auditory linguistic sequences, and 3) in probabilistic reduction effects in reading aloud. These findings will be discussed in the context of predictive processing, and in the context of situations where age differences are observed.