



UCSC Spanish Studies
welcomes

Dr. Sílvia Perpiñán
Universitat Pompeu Fabra
(Barcelona)

November 12, 2024
3:30-4:30 pm
Humanities 1, 202

Morphosyntactic Development in Adult and Child Catalan-Spanish Bilingualism

The role of language transfer and pressures from the dominant language within bilingual societies, such as in Catalonia, has been widely discussed. In this talk, I present data on Catalan and Spanish from various types of bilingual children and adults, all of whom began acquiring both languages by age 3. The focus will be on two morphosyntactic properties with microvariation between Catalan and Spanish: Differential Object Marking (DOM) and copular verbs. Findings indicate similar patterns for both features: in adult Catalan grammars, DOM and *ser/estar* show optionality, while in child language, this optionality is absent. Notably, Spanish in the bilingual context remains consistent with the monolingual variety, unaffected by bilingualism. This asymmetrical bilingualism, I argue, ultimately leads to language change in Catalan, the minority language.

Note: This talk will be in Spanish with slides in English.