



# Perceptual Recalibration of Phonetic Categories

**Professor Arthur G. Samuel**

*Professor of Psychology, Stony Brook University*

**Abstract:**

In this talk, I will report a number of studies on lexically-driven perceptual recalibration of phonetic categories. Norris, McQueen, and Cutler (2003) first showed that if listeners hear a number of ambiguous consonants (e.g., a sound mid-way between /s/ and /f/), the lexical context not only affects their immediate perception but also leads to a recalibration of the boundary between /s/ and /f/: If the ambiguous sound is the last segment in "hor[s/f]", people hear the word as "horse" and afterwards are more likely to hear ambiguous sounds as /s/; if the sound is the last segment in "gira[s/f]", they hear "giraffe" and later hear ambiguous sounds as /f/. Our lab has tested conditions that promote the recalibration effect, and ones that prevent it, helping us to understand lexical activation and its effects on phonetic perception.

**October 19, 2017 (Thursday)**  
**Room 802, Meng Wah Complex, HKU**  
**6:15 – 7:30 pm**  
**Chair: Dr Shelley Tong**

**About the speaker:**

Arthur G. Samuel is a Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychology at Stony Brook University and Ikerbasque Research Professor at Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language. He received his Ph.D. from UCSD in 1979. His research interests include perception, language, and attention. The majority of his research has been at the intersection of these three domains: spoken word recognition. He has published extensively on lexical influences on phonetic perception. His current work is primarily concerned with how humans process incoming information, involving its perception, comprehension, and encoding into memory. Professor Samuel has published his research works in many book chapters, journal articles and conference proceedings papers.



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