The Emory College Language Center presents

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“Linguistic explorations into the longitudinal study of the advanced capacities: The case of Spanish heritage language learners”

This presentation addresses the biliteracy development of Spanish as a heritage language in university students in California. In academic contexts language is used to display information using technical lexicon, with high degrees of structure and with an authoritative stance. Therefore, in this framework language development demands longitudinal measures that gauge the control users develop over time of particular lexico-grammatical patterns (e.g., grammatical metaphor, lexical density, grammatical complexity, clause combining and engagement) that index an academic context. The discussion will be fleshed out with examples from studies that tracked oral and written development of Spanish in heritage speakers who are using Spanish in academic and professional contexts in the US. From this perspective, advanced language development was defined as changes that develop gradually over time in relation to academic contexts where there are institutionalized ways of using language that characterize disciplinary discourse communities.

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4:00 p.m.

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