

# FED Lunch Research Series

## Word Reading Problems in a First and Second Language: Is It Possible to Be "Dyslexic" in One Script but Not Another?

Date & Time: 15 October 2015, 13:00 – 14:00 (Light lunch begins at 12:30pm)

Venue: Room G021, Faculty of Education (E33)

Language: English

Audience: UM Staff / Postgraduate Students

Enquiries & Registration: Mr. Alan CHANG (FED\_Event@umac.mo); Tel: 8822-4109

*\* Complementary light lunch will be provided.*

### Abstract

Different areas of the world define dyslexia differently. For example, the criteria by which dyslexia is diagnosed in Hong Kong Chinese children is different from the criteria by which it is diagnosed in Mainland Chinese, American, Greek, or Zambian children. In this talk, I will discuss definitions of dyslexia and also how word reading problems might be defined in a second language or orthography. Definitions are determined in part by culture, broadly defined, as well as by language and orthography. I will then highlight a) common cognitive correlates of dyslexia and b) uniqueness and overlap in word reading difficulties in a second language. Reading difficulties at the word level may be linked to both segmental and suprasegmental phonological sensitivity, morphological awareness in the forms of inflections, derivations, or lexical compounding, and visual-spatial or visual-motor skills, depending upon a given orthography, language, or basic cultural environment.

### Speaker

Professor Catherine McBride is a developmental psychologist and has published on a variety of topics including parenting, creativity, child abuse, peer relations, and reading development and impairment. The author of approximately 145 peer-reviewed journal articles, 12 book chapters, and two books, Professor McBride has also done a variety of work as an editor. She has served as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Research in Reading and currently serves as an associate editor for Developmental Psychology and Reading and Writing, as well as for the International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Sciences (to appear in 2015). Professor McBride is a Fellow for the Association for Psychological Science and Incoming President for the international Society for the Scientific Study of Reading. She has served on the editorial boards of eight journals, including Psychological Science, Journal of Educational Psychology, Annals of Dyslexia, and Journal of Experimental Child Psychology. She is currently the Associate Dean for Research for the Social Sciences Faculty at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

