

FROM THE COMPETITION MODEL TO EMERGENTISM

17 October 2023

9: 00 am (EDT, GMT-4)

Zoom

Registration:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeH04pRuSj3XeB-MbdhIH3w8vqCD5IZRjBdLjfkGd2wUT6emg/viewform?hl=en>



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Brian MacWhinney, Teresa Heinz Professor of Psychology, Computational Linguistics, and Modern Languages at Carnegie Mellon University, has developed a model of first and second language acquisition, processing, and disorders called the Competition Model. He is also the creator of the TalkBank system for spoken language data-sharing (<https://talkbank.org>). Recent edited books include *The Handbook of Language Emergence* (Wiley) and *Competing Motivations in Grammar and Usage* (Oxford).

ABSTRACT

The Competition Model is a data-based crosslinguistic functionalist model of language learning and processing. Developed in collaboration with Elizabeth Bates and dozens of colleagues, the model has generated 142 published studies. The classic model is at the core of a fuller emergentist account grounded on the dimensions of competition, linguistic levels, and timeframes. This talk situates the emergentist model within the fuller landscape of item-based learning, perspective-tracking, mental models, neuroemergentism, UG, statistical learning, and large language models, and suggests how it can be elaborated through new methods for data collection and sharing.

For this inaugural lecture of the **Expertise, Ecosystem and Emergentism Talk Series**, the Discussants will be the Series organizers: Arturo Hernandez, Catherine Caldwell-Harris, Ping Li