

**MITTWOCHSVORTRAGSREIHE AM PSYCHOLOGISCHEN INSTITUT  
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IN ZUSAMMENARBEIT MIT DER SALZBURGER GESELLSCHAFT FÜR PSYCHOLOGIE**

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**Thema: Where does children's language structure come from?**

In some sense it is clear that children learn language from the language that they hear. However there is much debate about how they do this. Some researchers emphasise the specifically linguistic nature of the knowledge that children bring to the learning process while others place much more emphasis on the role of socio-cognitive development and other cognitive processes in the building up of language structure. In this talk I will review recent empirical evidence from experimental and corpus studies (both our own and that of other researchers). This suggests a much greater role than has often been assumed, for normal cognitive and social developmental processes in children's building of language structure.