

Graduate School of Languages and Cultures, Nagoya University

Lecture series in the Departments of Applied Linguistics and Japanese as a Foreign Language

名古屋大学国際言語文化研究科・応用言語学講座／日本語教育学講座公開講演会

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Synthesis and Meta-Analysis in Applied Linguistics

Prof. Lourdes Ortega

(University of Hawai'i /Georgetown University)

Time & Date: 15:30 p.m.–17:00 p.m., August 6 (Mon.), 2012

Venue: 406 Liberal Arts & Sciences Main Building 4th Fl. (全学教育棟406)

Nagoya University

Research synthesis refers to a continuum of techniques and research procedures, including meta-analysis, that have been developed by social scientists with the aim to review past literature systematically. In this talk I will discuss the ways in which this methodology has been used in the field of applied linguistics since its introduction some ten years ago, caution about some dangers in its application, and highlight its value for the applied linguistics research community. Choosing examples from published studies on a variety of applied linguistic topics, I will illustrate the process of carrying out syntheses, from (1) the use of systematic procedures for the sampling of primary research studies (i.e., problem specification, literature search, and study eligibility criteria); through (2) the evaluation and classification of substantive and methodological features of primary studies (i.e., developing a coding book and implementing the coding process); and concluding with (3) the analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of synthetic findings. I will also demystify meta-analytic techniques for summarizing and interpreting quantifiable findings from primary studies and provide guidance on how to evaluate the quality of a research synthesis.

Free admission/No pre-registration needed. Contact address: Shunji Inagaki <inagaki@lang.nagoya-u.ac.jp>