

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Saint Mary's University

# Psychology Student Conference

Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012



## Keynote Address: Dr. Fergus I.M. Craik

Senior Scientist

Rotman Research Institute at Baycrest, Toronto

### Bilingualism: Consequences for Mind and Brain

2:45 – 4:00 pm: Scotiabank Theatre, Sobey Bldg.  
Address in Memory of Dr. Darryl Bruce

The talk will describe some research showing that bilingualism has both positive and negative effects on children and adults. The main negative aspect is that bilinguals have somewhat poorer verbal abilities than comparable monolinguals in both of their languages, but this inefficiency is outweighed by a number of positive aspects. The major benefit of bilingualism is an advantage in attentional control and executive functions; the evidence for this advantage will be described. Some studies have shown that the bilingual advantage increases at older adult ages, and it has been suggested that bilingualism is protective against normal age-related cognitive decline. Further, there is evidence that the protection extends to Alzheimer's disease; bilingualism is associated with a delay of onset of symptoms of 4-5 years. Finally, what effects does bilingualism have on the brain? The talk will end with a description of recent research that provides some preliminary answers.



Dr. Craik's research work involves the experimental study of human memory processes; a second interest is in the effects of aging on memory and cognition. He has written some 200 journal articles and book chapters, and co-edited ten books. Honours include Fellowships of the Canadian and American Psychological Associations; Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University (1982-83); Killam Research Fellowship (1982-84); Guggenheim Fellowship (1982-83); Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (1985- ); Award for Scientific Achievement from the Ontario Psychological Foundation (1987); Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award of the Canadian Psychological Association (1987); William James Fellow Award from the American Psychological Society (1993); Hebb Award of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science in 1998; Honorary President of the Canadian Psychological Association (1997-98); the Killam Prize for Science, 2000. In 2006 he was awarded an honorary degree (Docteur Honoris Causa) by the University of Bordeaux, and in 2008 he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of London.

## Psychology students will be presenting original research. Free and open to the public. All are welcome!

### Schedule of events:

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 10:00 – 11:15 am: | Student Research Presentations (Scotiabank Theatre, Sobey Bldg.)  |
| 11:30 – 12:45 pm: | Lunch and Poster Session (McNally Main Auditorium)  |
| 1:00 – 2:30 pm:   | Student Research Presentations (Scotiabank Theatre)   |
| 2:45 – 4:00 pm:   | Keynote, "Bilingualism: Consequences for Mind and Brain," Dr. Craik (Scotiabank Theatre)  |
| 4:15 – 5:15 pm:   | Student Research Presentations (Scotiabank Theatre)   |
| 6:30 – 9:30 pm:   | Reception and Buffet Dinner in the Student Union Building Cafeteria<br>Purchase tickets from the Psychology Secretary in MS 323 |