

**Name of RSA Area: Comparative Experimental Linguistics**

**Description of RSA Area (Maximum 1 page)**

Complex computations are involved in the apparently effortless and subconscious processes of speaking and understanding speech. The goal of the researchers in the Comparative Experimental Linguistics Group is to understand how these processes are performed. The aim is to resolve the central question: What is involved in understanding language and speaking it?

The nine members of this integrated research group are developing empirical lines of inquiry that reach across language, domain and speaker populations – an approach unique in Canada. The unit has been a centre of innovation in the development of laboratory methods, in modeling language processing and representation, and in expanding comparative experimental linguistics to new languages and populations. Areas of research include experimental phonetics, morphology, language revitalization and Amerindian languages, bilingual languages acquisition, and the interface between phonology and phonetics.

The group has received \$2.3 million in national and international research grants in the last five years. Members have achieved national and international reputations in their fields. In the last five years they have published 63 articles in peer-reviewed journals, 40 chapters in books and 38 refereed proceedings, and have made 208 conference presentations. Members serve as co-editors of international journals and have co-edited four special journal issues in the last four years.

Collaborative research networks include active working groups in six universities in Canada, four in North America and ten in Europe, as well as collaborators in China, Taiwan, Australia and New Zealand.