Dimensions of phonetic variation in Cantonese-English bilinguals
Molly Babel (UBC)

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Phonetic variation can be simultaneously seen as a hallmark of language vitality and as an indicator of language loss. In this talk, I explore the phonetic knowledge of Vancouver-based Cantonese-English bilinguals, whose systems may differ from homeland Cantonese speakers by virtue of living in an English dominant society or by natural phonetic drift between physically distant communities. I address these issues in two projects, one that examines a sound-change-in-progress and another that tests perceptual flexibility in Cantonese-English bilinguals.