

## **Bi/multilingualism and Specific Language Impairment (Developmental Language Disorder) – Call for abstracts**

**Bi-SLI 2024** is the 5<sup>th</sup> Bi-SLI conference focussing on research related to language acquisition in bi/multilingual children with SLI/DLD, as compared to language acquisition in typically developing bi/multilingual children. The conference will take place in Utrecht, The Netherlands, on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2024. For those of you who are not familiar with the Bi-SLI conferences: information on previous meetings is archived here: <https://www.bi-sli.org/bi-sli-conferences>. The website for the upcoming conference can be found here: <https://www.uu.nl/en/events/bimultilingualism-and-specific-language-impairment-developmental-language-disorder>.

It is estimated that more people are bi/multilingual than monolingual. However, while speech and language therapists (SLTs) are successful in identifying monolingual children with SLI/DLD, there is evidence of bi/multilingual children being both under- and over- diagnosed with SLI/DLD. Young, typically developing bi/multilingual children can exhibit language patterns similar to monolingual children with SLI/DLD depending upon the pattern of exposure to their languages. Contributing to the difficulty of properly diagnosing bi/multilingual children is the fact that due to recent migrations, bi/multilingual children now form a significant proportion of SLT caseloads. Since they speak languages different to those spoken by practicing SLTs, diagnostic practice faces a challenge.

To address the issue of properly diagnosing bi/multilingual children with SLI/DLD in SLT caseloads, the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Action ISO804 '*Language Impairment in Multilingual Society*' developed the LITMUS (Language Impairment Testing in Multilingual Settings) tools that were designed to facilitate the identification of SLI/DLD in bi/multilingual children (LITMUS Tools | LITMUS in Action (<https://www.bi-sli.org/litmus-main>)). Research and diagnostics using the LITMUS tools constitute a main theme of the Bi-SLI conferences, but submissions on related topics are welcomed.

For Bi-SLI 2024, we welcome submissions for papers and posters on research surrounding bi/multilingual children with SLI/DLD, including:

- The linguistic and non-linguistic profile of bi/multilingual children with SLI/DLD
- The identification of SLI/DLD in bi/multilingual contexts,

- The assessment of SLI/DLD in bi/multilingual contexts, including studies using the LITMUS tasks
- Intervention for bi/multilingual children with SLI/DLD
- The linguistic profile of bi/multilingual children with other developmental language disorders, like Autism.

### **Abstract submission**

Abstract submission opens now and will close on Monday the 20th of December 2023. Abstracts can be submitted here: <https://forms.uu.nl/universiteitutrecht-fsw/Abstract-submission-form-BiSLI-2024>

- Abstract submission deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2023
- Notification of acceptance: 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2024
- Types of presentations: 1) paper, 2) poster.
- Length of abstracts (for paper as well as poster): 350 words maximum – excluding references and title of paper.
- Length of paper presentations: 20 minutes (plus 10 minutes for discussion)
- Poster format: Poster size: A1 maximum, landscape or portrait.

### **Abstract review**

Submissions for individual talks and posters are treated in the same way. Presentations that will be ranked best will be planned as oral presentations, unless the preferred format is marked as Poster presentation. Abstracts are reviewed by the organising committee.

The organizers of BiSLI 2024,

Elma Blom, Tessel Boerma, Elise de Bree, Jan de Jong, Elena Tribushinina, Merel van Witteloostuijn, Rob Zwitserlood