

The 2026 Hong Kong International Forum on Language Aptitude

About the Forum

The 2026 Hong Kong International Forum on Language Aptitude: *New Frontiers in Research and Application* is hosted by the Division of Languages and Communication (LC) and the CPCE Centre for Pedagogic Research (CPR) at the School of Professional Education and Executive Development (SPEED) of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU-CPCE). This prestigious event is fully supported by a grant from the Research Grants Council (Project No.: UGC/IIDS24/H05/25; PI: Dr. Zhisheng Wen, PolyU SPEED; Co-Is: Prof. Shaofeng Li, PolyU; Prof. Zhenguang Cai, CUHK; Prof. Jing Yang, Zhejiang University; Prof. Mark Feng Teng, Macao Polytechnic University).

This three-day international forum is dedicated to exploring the latest frontiers in language aptitude research and its practical applications. Building on more than six decades of theoretical and empirical inquiry into language aptitude, testing, and pedagogy (see Wen, Skehan, Biedroń, Li & Sparks, 2019; Wen, Skehan, & Sparks, 2023), the Forum situates itself at the intersection of several major intellectual traditions. Foundational work by leading scholars such as Peter Skehan (UCL/IOE), Richard Sparks (Mount St Joseph), Ted Gibson (MIT), Brian MacWhinney (CMU), Ping Li (HKUST), and Morten Christiansen (Cornell) has profoundly influenced contemporary thinking on language learning ability, cognitive constraints, and individual differences.

The Forum examines how established concepts of language learning abilities and potential are being reshaped by cutting-edge developments across linguistics and applied linguistics, language education, psycholinguistics, cognitive and neurosciences, behavioural genetics, as well as computer science and artificial intelligence (AI). By engaging these interconnected perspectives, the Forum aims to foster genuinely multidisciplinary dialogue and to advance theory, measurement, and practice in language aptitude research in the digital and AI era.

Key Information

Theme	Language Aptitude: New Frontiers in Research and Application
Date	28 - 30 May 2026 (Thursday to Saturday)

Mode	Hybrid (Onsite at Room N201, North Tower, PolyU West Kowloon Campus and online via Zoom)
Venue	Room N201, North Tower, PolyU West Kowloon Campus, 9 Hoi-ting Road, Yau Ma Tei, Hong Kong [Link to Map]
Language	English
Free Registration	Please click " HERE "
Acknowledgement	This Conference is fully supported by a grant from the Hong Kong SAR Government's Research Grants Council (Project No.: UGC/IIDS24/H05/25).

[Conference Poster download](#)

Supporting Organizations

[Global Digital Applied Linguistics Association \(GloDAL\)](#)

[Beijing NewClass Digital Technology Co. Limited](#)

Hong Kong Learning in Technology Co. Limited

[Beijing Fistar Science and Technology](#)

(More to come...)

Supporting Journals

[International Journal of TESOL Studies](#) (IJTS; Scopus Q1)

[Asian Journal of English Language Teaching](#) (AJELT; Scopus)

[Research Methods in Applied Linguistics](#) (RMAL; Scopus Q1)

[Language Teaching Research Quarterly](#) (LTRQ; Scopus Q1)

[Individual Differences in Language Education: An International Journal](#) (IDLE)

[Digital Studies in Language and Literature](#)

[Digital Applied Linguistics](#)

(More to come...)

Contact Us

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