The Institute for Japanese Studies presents
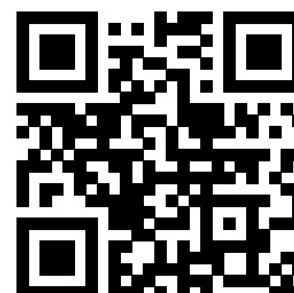
Seth Goss
Emory University

How effective is training on Japanese sound learning? An AI-assisted meta-analysis of training studies

Vowel and consonant length contrasts (e.g., kado 'corner' vs. kaado 'card') along with pitch accent are two areas of Japanese phonology that many second language (L2) learners find challenging to acquire. Both length contrasts and pitch are important not only for learners' own listening comprehension, but also the intelligibility of their spoken Japanese. Yet instructors understandably have little time to target these features, given the constraints on classroom hours. This has prompted researchers to develop various training tasks to help learners both perceive and produce length and pitch. However, no studies have taken a step back to ask: "How effective is training on the learning of these speech sounds?" In this talk I report on a meta-analysis of primary studies on the effectiveness of training on L2 Japanese sound learning. I will also show how I used a "human in the loop" AI tool to assist with the literature screening.

April 20, 2026
4:30-6:00 p.m.

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go.osu.edu/sethgoss

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With support from the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, Department of Linguistics.