

CSL Seminar

**BILINGUALISM FOR ALL: EXAMINING THE
EVIDENCE ON AT-RISK LEARNERS**

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There are multiple benefits to bilingualism: the ability to communicate with people in multiple languages, enhanced job opportunities in the global market place, access to information in multiple languages on the internet and in traditional media, tolerance and openness to speakers of other languages, and cognitive advantages. Thus, it is important that all children have the opportunity to become bilingual. However, parents of children with developmental disorders or background characteristics that might put them at-risk for academic difficulty are often discouraged from raising or educating their children bilingually. Research evidence for these concerns is examined in this talk. I begin by examining children's capacity for dual language learning by reviewing research on the development of children with typical and atypical development from birth to 5 years of age. I then discuss research that has examined the language, cognitive and academic development of at-risk learners who are in dual language school programs. There will be a focus on students at risk for reading or language impairment because these are significant sources of difficulty in school; but evidence on students with learner characteristics that is often associated with low levels of academic performance is also discussed -- for example, students from low socio-economic or minority language backgrounds and students with low academic ability.

Thursday, 19 April 2018
1pm-3pm
Minerva (building 12), Karlstad University

All welcome!