Code:	JRMP2021_12
School / Department:	Department of English
Name of Research Leader:	Dr Renia Lopez, Assistant Professor
Research Topic:	Changes in Verbal and Non-verbal Behavior as Proficiency in English Develops
Short Description of the Research Project:	In this project, we are studying how our communicative skills change with proficiency. We will be recording learners of English over a period of two years and comparing their performance when carrying out oral communicative tasks (similar to the ones used by the Cambridge B2 First Assessment). For this, we will be analyzing both verbal and non-verbal behaviors. Selected research students might be involved with all aspects of the project: collecting the data, editing the material (the videos); transcribing selected extracts; and analyzing the data collected. We will provide training in Praat and ELAN, the software we use for the transcriptions.
No. of Places Offered:	2
Special Requirement(s):	Attention to detail Responsible (dealing with confidential data)

* The information presented above is subject to change.

Junior Research Mentoring Programme

Code:	JRMP2021_14
School / Department:	Department of English
Name of Research Leader:	Dr Dennis Tay, Associate Professor
Research Topic:	Language, Social Media, and Time
Short Description of the Research Project:	We post on social media like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube all the time, using language to express our feelings about the latest developments in society and our personal lives. How does our language change subtly, or sometimes dramatically across time, how can we investigate this change, and what do the results teach us about the dynamics of social media, language use, and ourselves? In this project, you will acquire valuable academic and life skills including discourse analysis, statistical analysis, data searching on the internet, basics of the Python programming language, and working together as a team to solve intellectual and practical problems. You will also learn how verbal and numerical reasoning can be combined in research and life. No particular background knowledge is required, only your passion for language and learning!
No. of Places Offered:	2

* The information presented above is subject to change.

Code:	JRMP2021_15
School / Department:	Department of English
Name of Research Leader:	Dr Margo Turnbull, Research Assistant Professor
Research Topic:	Leveraging 'Uncertainty' during a Health Crisis: A Comparative Analysis of the Use of Hedges in the Speeches of Four International Political Leaders During 2020
Short Description of the Research Project:	Speeches given by political leaders during a time of crisis are important political tools in the management of uncertainty and public anxiety. At the onset of the COVID-19 crisis in January 2020, there was very little knowledge about the novel coronavirus, infection routes and mortality rates. Political leaders had to balance what was known and unknown as they responded to local situations and introduced infection control guidelines. This research will compile and use corpora of speeches made by international leaders to explore how uncertainty was managed and leveraged by these speakers at key time points during the first six months of the health crisis. This research analyses uncertainty as a discursive tool that is used to build trust with citizens.
No. of Places Offered:	2

* The information presented above is subject to change.