



DEPARTMENT OF  
**Communication Sciences  
and Disorders**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**PROSEM**

Monday, February 24, 2020  
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.  
Goodnight Hall, B62

**Elizabeth Evans, BS**

1st Year Masters Candidate in SLP  
Cognitive Communication in Aging and Neurogenic Disorders Lab (Mueller Lab)  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders  
University of Wisconsin - Madison

**Characterization of Connected Speech in African American Adults at Risk for Alzheimer's disease: creating new methods from community input**

Connected speech-language (CSL) is a promising performance-based measure of cognition for studies researching Alzheimer's disease (AD). CSL represents everyday communication and may be less influenced by sociocultural factors. Picture description tasks are common for eliciting CSL, typically *Cookie Theft (CT)*. However, *CT* is outdated and not culturally representative. In this project, our aims were to 1) characterize CSL from late-middle-aged African Americans (AA) by sex and genetic risk 2) compare African American's connected speech changes vs. standardized language tests across cognitive statuses 3) determine if African Americans and non-Hispanic whites respond differently to the *CT* prompt. In this talk, we will discuss our findings and future plans for improving the speech sample collection task. We will also discuss the community engagement model of recruitment for research in underrepresented populations.

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*Note! Lunch will be served on a first-come, first-served basis. We hope to see you all there!*