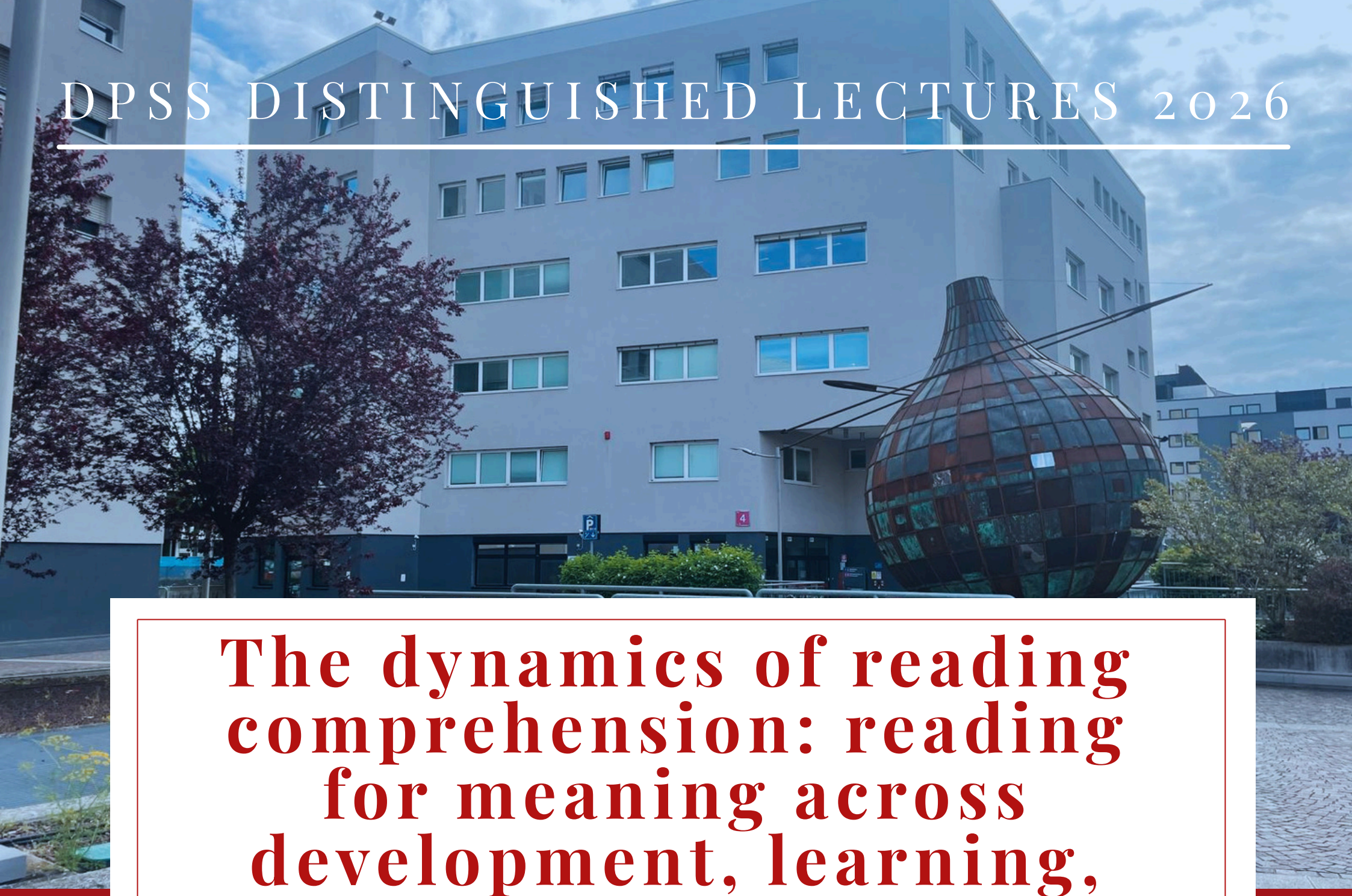

DPSS DISTINGUISHED LECTURES 2026

The dynamics of reading comprehension: reading for meaning across development, learning, and contexts

VENERDI' 4 SETTEMBRE 2026 ORE 10.00
AULA B (GALLERIA) DI PSICO3
APERITIVO DALLE 12:00, COMMON ROOM, CASA DELLA STUDENTE (PSICO 5)

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Abstract

Reading comprehension is a complex cognitive activity that involves the coordination of multiple skills and knowledge bases in real time. Therefore, it is not surprising that some children - and adults - experience persistent difficulties understanding what they read, even with age-appropriate word reading. I will examine reading comprehension from three complementary perspectives. (1) I show how of the dynamics of reading for meaning provides insight into the knowledge and processes that support deep comprehension, and sources of reading comprehension failure. (2) I review longitudinal studies that identify key skills and knowledge that influence reading comprehension development, and their relation to knowledge growth. (3) I consider how the context of reading – including factors such as reading purpose and medium - affect how readers engage with text and what they learn from it. Drawing from these perspectives, I conclude with recommendations for effective reading comprehension instruction and for timely intervention to reduce the risk of reading comprehension difficulties.

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