

Sotaro Kita

After studying engineering in Japan (B.Eng., Mathematical engineering, University of Tokyo, 1986; MEng. Information engineering, University of Tokyo, 1988), I moved to Chicago (USA). I received a Ph.D. in psychology and linguistics from the University of Chicago (1993) under the supervision of Professor David McNeill. In 1993, I joined Cognitive Anthropology Research Group (lead by Stephen Levinson) at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in the Netherlands as a postdoc. I worked at the Max Planck Institute as a postdoc (1993-1994) and then a Senior Researcher in Levinson's group (1994-2003). I have taught at the University of Bristol (2003-2006) and at the University of Birmingham (2006-2013). I have been in the current position (Professor of Psychology of Language) at the University of Warwick since 2013. My research concerns psychology of communication. The main focus is on gestures that are spontaneously produced during speaking and thinking. For example, I have done research on how language structure shapes gestural representations (Kita & Özyürek, 2003), and how gesturing influence thinking and speaking (Kita, Alibali, & Chu, 2017). The second focus is development of communicative abilities in children. For example, I have investigated how adult gestures can facilitate word learning in children (Mumford & Kita, 2014), and how deaf children without linguistic input create a new language (Senghas, Kita, & Özyürek, 2004). I have also edited a book on pointing gesture from multi-disciplinary perspectives (Kita, 2003). I have founded and lead the "Gesture Project" at Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics (1993-2003). I have served as the Vice President (2010-2012) and the President (2012-2014) of the International Society for Gesture Studies. I am the Editor of the journal, Gest