“The Interface of Styles, Strategies, Motivation, and Age in Second-Language Learning”

The aim of this presentation is to consider the psychological dimensions of language learner strategies in order to make the construct more accessible. Strategies are viewed at the intersection of learning style preferences, motivation, and age in the performance of specific second-language tasks. The presentation will also call attention to issues of theoretical debate and demonstrate how case-study research can contribute to understanding the process of language learning. The presentation draws on data collected by University of Minnesota undergraduates in self-study and study of their peers with regard to styles, strategies, and motivation, and on data collected by the presenter and his teacher of Mandarin with regard in part to the role of advanced age in the language learning process.

Presenter: **Professor Emeritus Andrew D. Cohen**, University of Minnesota.

Andrew D. Cohen majored in French History & Literature as an undergrad at Harvard, was a Peace Corps Volunteer in rural community development with the Aymara Indians on the High Plains of Bolivia (1965-67), and then did his doctorate at the Stanford School of Education in International Development Education, with his doctorate being an evaluation of one of the first federally-funded Spanish-English bilingual education programs.

In retirement, he remains active professionally, presenting at conferences, doing consulting, and writing. For example, Cohen is consultant on a 3-year research project (2013-2015) in Doha, Qatar to improve the reading strategies in EFL and Arabic L1 of middle-school students reading in science. In addition, he has recently written a guide for young language learners, with a companion guide for teachers. For the last two years he has been studying his 13th language, Mandarin, having twice-weekly tandem sessions (Mandarin and English respectively) with a Chinese woman in Minneapolis.

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**Date:** Saturday, 16 August 2014  
**Time:** 4:00pm – 6:00pm  
**Place:** A Block, Level 3, Room A-330, QUT Kelvin Grove Campus  
**RSVP:** by 4pm Friday, 15 August to Wilhelmina Ramakers: wilhelmina.ramakers@qut.edu.au  
**Enquiries:** Dr Karen Woodman: karen.woodman@qut.edu.au