The distributed practice effect under intentional and incidental learning conditions

The distributed practice effect is a phenomenon whereby the spacing out of the presentation and / or practice of to-be-learned items confers greater long-term learning effects than massing them. Recent studies into the distributed practice effect and second language grammar learning, however, have produced mixed results. Several studies found an advantage for spacing the presentation of syntax (e.g. Bird, 2010), but one recent study found an advantage for massed (Suzuki and DeKeyser, 2017). In this talk I will discuss some of the factors that may influence the strength and optimal spacing of distributed practice. I will then outline my proposed study that will investigate the effect of intentional and incidental learning conditions and individual differences in declarative memory on the optimal spacing when learning form-meaning mappings in an L2.