

Research Seminars in General Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience  
("Forschungskolloquium für Absolventen, Doktoranden, und Mitarbeiter")

**„General Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience“**

(Prof. Dr. Stefan R. Schweinberger)

Summer Term 2015

Place: Am Steiger 3/EG, SR 009

Contact: [kathrin.wiese@uni-jena.de](mailto:kathrin.wiese@uni-jena.de). For more information on current and past presentations see:  
<http://www2.uni-jena.de/svw/allgpsy/researchseminars.htm>

Event Schedule

13.07.2015	Laura Broemer, Jena	Representation of learned faces: exemplar memory and mental averaging in good and poor face recognizers
06.07.2015	Constanze Mühl, Jena	Priming effects on implicit and explicit ToM processing
29.06.2015	Anne Grigutsch, Jena	In-group and out-group effects on visual perspective taking
22.06.2015	Louise Ewing, London, UK	<a href="#">Person perception and its determinants in children with autism spectrum disorder?</a>
19.06.2015	Markus F. Neumann, Perth, Australia	Seeing individuals and seeing the crowd - ensemble encoding for sets of faces.
08.06.2015	Nadine Kloth, Perth, Australia	Studying face perception with adaptation paradigms
11.05.2015	Katharina Limbach, Auckland, NZ/Jena	The role of alpha-oscillations in signal detection and selective attention
04.05.2015	Nadja Richter, Jena	<a href="#">Social Preference in Preschoolers: Effects of Morphological Self-Similarity and Familiarity</a>
27.04.2015	Christian Gaser, Universitätsklinikum Jena	Computational Neuroanatomy for the Analysis of Developmental and Aging Effects
13.04.2015	Stefan R. Schweinberger, Jena	Initial Meeting

**Louise Ewing**

*Birkbeck, University of London & Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders (ARC CCD), School of Psychology, University of Western Australia*

## **Person perception and its determinants in children with autism spectrum disorder?**

Individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are widely reported to demonstrate face- and person-processing differences and deficits relative to their typically developing peers. During this presentation, I will discuss research conducted during my PhD and later with colleagues in the ARC CCD that has set out to better characterize these perceptual atypicalities and to elucidate their underlying mechanisms. Highlights include our use of developmentally appropriate visual adaptation/aftereffect tasks to probe face-coding mechanisms in children with ASD, which revealed evidence of selectively atypical – but crucially not fundamentally disrupted – calibration of face representations with experience. I will describe also the innovative development of behavioural economic paradigms to explore the perception of social attributes, e.g., facial attractiveness, trustworthiness, and test the extent to which processing differences in this domain reflect diminished social interest in this group, as predicted by the social motivation theory of autism (Chevallier et al., 2012).

**Nadja Richter, Ph.D.**

*Department of Developmental Psychology University of Jena, Germany*

## **Social Preference in Preschoolers: Effects of Morphological Self-Similarity and Familiarity**

Adults prefer to interact with others that are similar to themselves. Even slight facial self-resemblance can elicit trust towards strangers, a tendency that has been interpreted as a consequence of an adapted kinship detection mechanism. Yet the ontogenetic onset of this tendency remains unclear. Here I investigate if preschoolers at the age of 5 years use facial self-resemblance when they make social judgments about others. I found that, in the absence of any additional knowledge about prospective peers, children preferred those who look subtly like themselves to complete strangers. Thus, subtle morphological similarities trigger cooperative behavior well before adulthood.