

# **New meanings of ‘thin-skinned’: autonomic and neural correlates of biological sensitivity to context**

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Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 from 11.00 to 12.30  
Location: Management School Lecture Theatre 6  
Lancaster University

**ALL WELCOME**

Abstract: Research into genetics, physiology, neuroimaging, computational modelling and behaviour, working within the conceptual frameworks of Yerkes-Dodson and Differential Susceptibility Theory, has explored how an individual’s level of stress, operationalised as autonomic arousal, can affect their learning capacities in different situations.

We present data showing that, in typical, 12-month-old infants, arousal and attention are continuously fluctuating at multiple time-scales. Fluctuations in arousal covary with, and temporally precede, fluctuations in attention. We also show that, at least in a middle-class, Cambridge, sample, infants with more attentive behavioural profiles show increased variability in arousal on multiple time-scales.

Finally we explore how biological sensitivity to context changes during development. Based on neuro-imaging evidence looking at how neural phase-locking to the temporal patterns in speech changes from infancy to adulthood, we ask: does an individual’s responsiveness to temporal structures in the outside environment decrease with increasing age?

## **Directions**

Details for getting to Lancaster University can be found on their [website](#), and Management School LT06 is building 52 on the [Lancaster University Campus Map](#)

## **Further information**

For further information about this seminar, please contact [michaeline.k.glover@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:michaeline.k.glover@manchester.ac.uk) or about LuCiD, please contact [helen.allwood@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:helen.allwood@manchester.ac.uk)

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