



The SDSU Center for Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience
presents its Student Seminar Series, featuring:

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Language Impairment and Atypical Sound Processing in ASD

Wednesday, March 8th, 2017

2:00 – 3:00 pm

6363 Alvarado Ct.

Suite 250, Conference Room

Language delay is often among the first symptoms of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). It is a persistent problem with 25% of diagnosed individuals remaining completely nonverbal, and even those who acquire functional language frequently display problems with its pragmatic aspects (such as turn-taking and prosody). The causes for language impairments in ASDs, however, remain unclear. Since early language acquisition crucially relies on the auditory system, they may relate to abnormal sound processing which is observed in up to 65% of individuals with ASDs, despite normal peripheral hearing. Our studies aim to better understand the relationship between atypical auditory processing and language impairment in ASDs. We use functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to determine how differences in the cortical organization of the auditory and language systems in children and adolescents with ASDs relate to language skills, sound sensitivities, and socio-communicative symptom severity.

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