

Psychological Sciences Colloquium Series



Dr. Fang Jiang
Assistant Professor
Center for Integrative
Neuroscience
Department of Psychology
University of Nevada, Reno

Motion processing in early deaf adults

Monday, August 27th, 3:30 p.m.
Bluemont Hall, Room * * 5102 * *

Abstract: Individuals who are deaf since early life may show enhanced performance in the remaining modalities and the behavioral compensation is often linked to the recruitment of the primary auditory cortex (PAC). In two fMRI experiments, we investigated whether neural responses in auditory and association cortices of early deaf individuals are reorganized to be sensitive to directional visual or tactile motion, respectively. We found increased directional responses in the right superior temporal sulcus (STS) region in deaf participants for both visual and tactile motion, and the extent of activation in the right STS was much larger than that in the PAC. However, the right STS responses in deaf showed no enhanced directional specificity, suggesting a more distributed population of neurons dedicated to processing motion information as a result of early auditory deprivation.

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