

Seminar

Rethinking multisensory development

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Date : 30 May 2019 (Thursday)
Time : 15:00 – 16:00
Venue : Room Y7302, SS Conference Room,
Yeung Kin Man Academic Building,
City University of Hong Kong
Moderator : Dr. Sam Ye
Language : English

Abstract

Advances in the methods available for studying perceptual abilities in young infants over the last 40-50 years have revealed a degree of multisensory sophistication in the first months of life which threatens earlier notions of the newborn as naïve in that regard (e.g., notions from James and Piaget). Nonetheless, I will argue that current theoretical accounts of the developmental processes accounting for such early ability (e.g., Bahrick & Lickliter's, 2000, 2014, intersensory redundancy hypothesis) are unsatisfactory in that they do little to address how the senses come together in the human foetus and infant in a manner which is computationally and neurally plausible (i.e., they do not consider how the crossmodal binding problem is solved). I will illustrate the importance of these concerns with a range of behavioural and imaging studies of the development of multisensory processes in human infants, and argue that future accounts of multisensory development should consider: i) how spatiotemporally and semantically coherent crossmodal binding is learned through sensory experience, and ii) how the changing biological and sensorimotor constraints of the developing infant impinge on multisensory development.

Biosketch

Dr Andy Bremner is a developmental psychologist with expertise in multisensory perceptual development and the development of touch perception. Andy Bremner undertook his DPhil at Oxford University (2003) with Prof. Peter Bryant, FRS. After two postdoctoral appointments Andy took up an academic post at Goldsmiths, University of London where he was latterly Professor and Head of Psychology. In 2018, Andy moved to the School of Psychology, University of Birmingham where he leads the Birmingham BabyLab. From 2009-2015, Andy's research was funded by the European Research Council grant, "Human Embodied Multisensory Development". He is Co-Editor (with Robin Banerjee) of *Infant and Child Development*.

All Are Welcome