

# Brain Dynamics Graduate School



## Newsletter – November ‘24

\*Let us know if you have an announcement, upcoming event, new publication or job posting!  
Send your information (with a link if applicable) to [jovanovic@uni-leipzig.de](mailto:jovanovic@uni-leipzig.de).  
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## Events

- **Guest lecture at the MPI CBS**

**07.11.** 14:00 MPI CBS, Wilhelm Wundt Room (A400), Stephanstraße 1A, 04103 Leipzig

**Prof Stephen LaConte, PhD**, Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC, Virginia Tech, Roanoke, VA, USA & Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, USA

“Harnessing supervised learning-based real-time fMRI to test the dynamic function of resting state networks”.

<https://www.cbs.mpg.de/events/39684/338738>

- **Brain Dynamics Seminar Series**

**08.11.** 12:00 Paul Flechsig Institute - Center of Neuropathology and Brain Research, Room 3093, Liebigstraße 19 (Haus C), 04103 Leipzig

**PD Dr Markus Schwab**, Paul Flechsig Institute of Neuropathology, University Hospital Leipzig

“Molecular regulation of neural networks: from the nucleus to axon and synapse”.

**22.11.** 12:00 Paul Flechsig Institute - Center of Neuropathology and Brain Research, Room 3093, Liebigstraße 19 (Haus C), 04103 Leipzig

**Prof Patrick Ragert, PhD**, Department of Movement Neuroscience, Faculty of Sport Science, Leipzig University & Department of Neurology, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig

“Non-invasive brain stimulation to optimize (motor) performance in humans”.

<https://www.uni-leipzig.de/en/brain-dynamics/graduate-school-brain-dynamics/news-events#c621679>.

- **Language Circle**

**13.11.** 14:00 Online

**Prof Giovanni Di Liberto, PhD**, Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience, Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin, Ireland

“Investigating auditory cognition with natural speech and music”.

<https://www.cbs.mpg.de/events/39762/338738>.

**14.11.** 11:00 Hybrid: online & MPI CBS, Wilhelm Wundt Room (A400), Stephanstraße 1A, 04103 Leipzig

**Dr Luigi Grisoni**, Department of Philosophy and Humanities, Freie Universität Berlin

“Predictive semantic activity in the brain: New arguments for the relevance of sensory and motor systems in meaning processing”.

<https://www.cbs.mpg.de/events/39760/338738>

- **Cradle of Cognition Lecture**

**13.11.** 16:00 Online

**Prof Jesse Gomez, PhD**, Princeton Neuroscience Institute, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA

“Developmental fMRI of the visual system and beyond”.

<https://www.cbs.mpg.de/events/38723/338738>.

- **Klinisch-Neurowissenschaftliches Kolloquium**

**13.11.** 16:30 University Hospital Leipzig, Haus B: Meeting Room H0001, Liebigstraße 18, 04103 Leipzig

**PD Dr Friedhelm C. Schmitt**, Department of Neurology, Otto von Guericke University, Magdeburg

„Minimalinvasive Epilepsiechirurgie – Update 2025“.

[https://www.uniklinikum-leipzig.de/veranstaltungen/Seiten/Veranstaltung\\_6225.aspx](https://www.uniklinikum-leipzig.de/veranstaltungen/Seiten/Veranstaltung_6225.aspx)

**27.11.** 16:30 University Hospital Leipzig, Haus 4: Meeting Room "Justus von Liebig", Liebigstraße 20, 04103 Leipzig

**Prof Dr Felix von Podewils**, Department of Neurology, Epilepsy Center, University Medicine Greifswald

„Anfallssuppressiva, wo stehen wir mit neuen Wirkstoffen?“.

[https://www.uniklinikum-leipzig.de/veranstaltungen/Seiten/Veranstaltung\\_6226.aspx](https://www.uniklinikum-leipzig.de/veranstaltungen/Seiten/Veranstaltung_6226.aspx)

- **Open Lab Day**

**26.11.** 13:00 MPI CBS, Room EEG3, Stephanstraße 1A, 04103 Leipzig

**Research group „Cognition and Plasticity“**, Wilhelm Wundt Institute for Psychology, Faculty of Life Sciences, University Leipzig & Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig

“Non-invasive brain stimulation”.

<https://www.uni-leipzig.de/en/brain-dynamics/graduate-school-brain-dynamics/news-events/newsdetail/artikel/open-lab-research-group-cognition-and-plasticity-2024-10-30>.

- **CBS CoCoNUT Lecture**

**27.11.** 15:00 Hybrid: online & MPI CBS, Lecture Hall (C101), Stephanstraße 1A, 04103 Leipzig

**Dr Sebastian Lapuschkin**, Fraunhofer Heinrich Hertz Institute, Berlin

“Understanding XAI as a Tool Beyond Model Understanding : From Heatmaps to Concepts and XAI Automation”.

<https://www.cbs.mpg.de/events/39756/338738>.

## News

- **Call for Inter-Lab Pilot Projects extended until 31st December**

The Inter-lab Pilot Project program offers funding in the amount of up to 3.500€ to support multi-lab, multidisciplinary pilot projects in humans and/or animal models. The objective of the Pilot Project program is to enable Brain Dynamics members to collect and/or analyse preliminary data in preparation for grant applications to local, national and international funding agencies.

<https://www.uni-leipzig.de/en/brain-dynamics/graduate-school-brain-dynamics/news-events/pilot-projects>

- **Researchers reconstruct fruit fly brain structure for the first time**

Scientists from the FlyWire consortium – including biologist Dr Katharina Eichler from Leipzig University – created a connectome of the insect’s brain:

<https://www.uni-leipzig.de/en/newsdetail/artikel/forschende-rekonstruieren-erstmal-aufbau-des-fruchtfliegen-hirns-2024-10-18>.

## New members

We welcome two new doctoral students to the Brain Dynamics family:

➤ **Valeria Baragona**

Research Group Schröger, Wilhelm Wundt Institute for Psychology, Faculty of Life Sciences

Research project: “The interplay of sensory predictions and absent stimuli in the adult human brain”

<https://www.lw.uni-leipzig.de/en/wilhelm-wundt-institute-for-psychology/working-groups-1/cognitive-and-biological-psychology/team>

➤ **Akanksha Arshia**

Research Group Schmidt, Carl Ludwig Institute of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine

Research project: “Studies on the functional synaptic nanotopography of visual cortex areas”

<https://www.uniklinikum-leipzig.de/einrichtungen/physiologie/en/externally-funded-research-groups/research-group-schmidt>

## Latest publications

➤ Brain Dynamics doctoral candidate **Louisa Huff** and research group **Grüneisen**

Children recognize and reject favoritism in norm enforcement.

Huff L, Déniz T, Gronem L, Grueneisen S.

Cognition. 2024 Oct 15; 254:105981. doi: 10.1016/j.cognition.2024.105981.

➤ Brain Dynamics doctoral candidate **Emma Bailey**, postdoc **Birgit Nierula** and research group **Eippert**

A multichannel electrophysiological approach to noninvasively and precisely record human spinal cord activity.

Nierula B, Stephani T, Bailey E, Kaptan M, Pohle LG, Horn U, Mouraux A, Maess B, Villringer A, Curio G, Nikulin VV, Eippert F.

PLoS Biol. 2024 Oct 31; 22(10):e3002828. doi: 10.1371/journal.pbio.3002828.

➤ Research groups **Bechmann / Sheikh**

Noncanonical microglial IL-1 $\beta$  maturation in chronic kidney disease.

Zimmermann S, Mathew A, Bondareva O, Elwakiel A, Jiang S, Rana R, Bechmann I, Goldschmidt J, Klötting N, Sheikh BN, Isermann B.  
Nephrol Dial Transplant. 2024 Nov 4: gfae239. doi: 10.1093/ndt/gfae239.

➤ Research groups **Bechmann / Stassart**

Peptidoglycan accumulates in distinct brain regions and cell types over lifetime but is absent in newborns.

Zeihner C, Kuhrt H, Rifflet A, Winter K, Boon L, Stassart RM, Nutma E, Middeldorp J, Strating IM, Boneca IG, Bechmann I, Laman JD.  
Brain Behav Immun. 2024 Oct 22; 123:799-812. doi: 10.1016/j.bbi.2024.10.024.

➤ Research groups **Kovacs / Villringer / Horstmann**

Working memory gating in obesity is moderated by striatal dopaminergic gene variants.

Herzog N, Hartmann H, Janssen LK, Kanyamibwa A, Waltmann M, Kovacs P, Deserno L, Fallon S, Villringer A, Horstmann A.  
Elife. 2024 Oct 21;13:RP93369. doi: 10.7554/eLife.93369.

➤ Research groups **Grunwald / Morawski**

Number of Facial Hair Corresponds to Frequency of Spontaneous Face-Touch in Humans.

Grunwald M, Pasatu WPM, Spille J, Haensel R, Stieler J, Holzer M, Ziemer M, Butz KHG, Martin S, Mueller SM, Morawski M.  
Adv Biol (Weinh). 2024 Oct 8: e2400243. doi: 10.1002/adbi.202400243.

➤ Research group **Schröger / Jescheniak**

Semantic Context Effects in Picture and Sound Naming: Evidence from Event-related Potentials and Pupillometric Data.

Gruner M, Widmann A, Wöhner S, Schröger E, Jescheniak JD.  
J Cogn Neurosci. 2024 Oct 4: 1-21. doi: 10.1162/jocn\_a\_02255.

➤ Research group **Valk**

Convergent functional effects of antidepressants in major depressive disorder: a neuroimaging meta-analysis.

Saberi A, Ebneabbasi A, Rahimi S, Sarebannejad S, Sen ZD, Graf H, Walter M, Sorg C, Camilleri JA, Laird AR, Fox PT, Valk SL, Eickhoff SB, Tahmasian M.  
Mol Psychiatry. 2024 Oct 15. doi: 10.1038/s41380-024-02780-6.

➤ Research group **Widdig**

Assessing Variance in Male Reproductive Skew Based on Long-Term Data in Free-Ranging Rhesus Macaques.

Widdig A, Engel L, Ruiz-Lambides A, Dubuc C, Weiß BM.  
Am J Primatol. 2024 Oct 22: e23687. doi: 10.1002/ajp.23687.