

TIME, SEX, AND BODY LANGUAGE READING

Professor Marina A. Pavlova, Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University of Tübingen Medical School, Tübingen, Germany, marina.pavlova@uni-tuebingen.de

Editor-in-Chief, Frontiers in Emotion Science

Associate Editor, PLoS ONE

ABSTRACT

By bringing most recent findings on body language reading, I will conceive perspectives, open questions, and limitations in our understanding of the social brain in healthy individuals and neuropsychiatric disorders. The social brain has many facets playing decisive role in majority of neuropsychiatric conditions such as autistic spectrum disorders, schizophrenia, and major depression. This symposium intends to give impulses for discussion of the following issues: (i) Contribution of neuroimaging in understanding of the social brain: With the advent of sophisticated techniques over the past decades, brain imaging has energized the rapidly developing field of social neuroscience, and has sparked a wide range of research in neuropsychiatry. Yet brain imaging faces with a set of issues that must be addressed. One of them is time, which is a key to understanding the organization of functional networks, since brain topography alone does not allow us to understand neural communication as well as pathological changes in brain activation. I will present our novel findings on body motion processing by using multimodal neuroimaging (MEG and ultra high field fMRT at 9.4 Tesla) ; (ii) Relationship between behavior and brain activity: This relationship is far from simple even in individuals, free from the rich complexities of psychopathology; and (iii) Sex specificity of the social brain: Many neuropsychiatric disorders characterized by aberrant social cognition display a skewed sex ratio: females and males are affected differently in terms of clinical picture, prevalence, and severity. Currently, we are only beginning to understand the origins of gender/sex specificity. I will discuss our behavioral and brain imaging data in this domain.