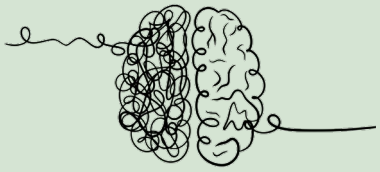
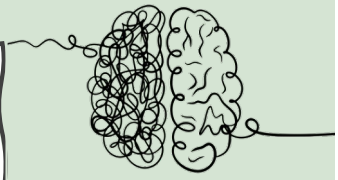
TOR VERGATA
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA

I corsi di laurea triennale e magistrale di Psicologia presentano...

CICLO DI SEMINARI DI PSICOLOGIA - 2025





Dipartimento di Medicina dei Sistemi
Edificio B, via Montpellier 1, 00133 Roma

martedì **21 ottobre** **Ore 11.30** Aula Golgi In lingua italiana	**Prof.ssa GIORGIA SILANI** *- Università di Vienna -* «Disrupted social homeostasis? Effects of acute social isolation on energy and fatigue: evidence from the lab and the field»
Giovedì **21 novembre** **Ore 11.00** Aula Golgi In lingua inglese	**Prof. CLAUS LAMM** *- Università di Vienna -* «Leveraging social neuroscience for a better understanding of climate (in)action»
venerdì **19 Dicembre** **Ore 11.30** Aula Fleming In lingua italiana	**Prof. VALERIO SANTANGELO** *- Università di Perugia -* «Functional neuroimaging of highly superior autobiographical memory»

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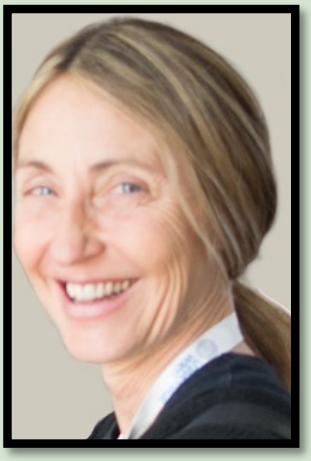
SEMINARI DI PSICOLOGIA
DIPARTIMENTO DI MEDICINA DEI SISTEMI

PROF.SSA GIORGIA SILANI
UNIVERSITA' DI VIENNA

Disrupted social homeostasis? Effects of acute social isolation on energy and fatigue: evidence from the lab and the field

Social contact is a fundamental need of social mammals, and long-term social isolation predicts aversive health outcomes. However, human adaptive responses to short-term social isolation are less understood. In this talk I will present findings pertaining to the effects of experimentally induced acute social isolation on psychological and physiological measures in humans, and compare them to the effects of a better-known deprived state such as fasting. Furthermore, in order to test their ecological validity, a subsample of individuals, participating in a large-scale EMA study during the first COVID-19 lockdown and undergoing days of social isolation, was examined on the same self-report measures collected in the lab. Experimental induction of social isolation resulted in higher need for social contact, lower energetic arousal and higher fatigue, as well as higher desire to avoid the situation, to a similar extend to increased desire for food, fatigue and low energy during food deprivation. Notably, the change in energy after social isolation observed in the lab was replicated in the field study. Here, I propose that lowered energy could be part of a 'social homeostatic' response to isolation, which may share similarities with other homeostatic systems, such as the regulation of food intake.



Giorgia Silani is Professor for Clinical Neuroscience at the Department of Clinical and Health Psychology, at the University of Vienna and Head of the Clinical Social Neuroscience (CSN) Unit. She graduated with a diploma in clinical psychology from the University of Turin in 1998 and obtained her Ph.D. in cognitive neuroscience from the University of Milano in 2006. From 2004 to 2006, she worked at the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, London, under the supervision of Prof. Uta Frith. In 2007, she was appointed at the Center for Social Neuroscience and Neuroeconomics, University of Zurich, by Prof. Tania Singer. In 2010, she moved to Italy to lead the 'Collective Emotions and Social Cognitive Neuroscience Lab', at SISSA, Trieste. Since 2014, she has been working at University of Vienna. Her research focuses on the neurobiological and neuropharmacological basis of social cognition, emotions, and behaviors. She also investigates the effects of atypical development on social interactions and cognition.

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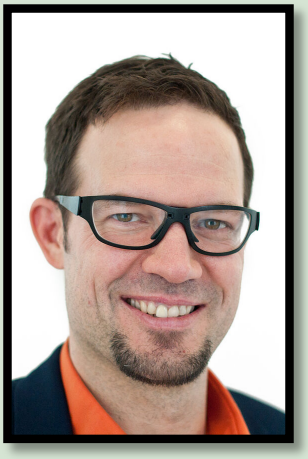
PROF. CLAUS LAMM
UNIVERSITA' DI VIENNA

Leveraging social neuroscience for a better understanding of climate (in)action

The field of social neuroscience has generated major new insights into the neurobiological basis of social cognition, affect and behaviour. We now have a better understanding of the basic mechanisms of when, why and how people engage in prosocial emotions and behaviours, such as empathy, compassion, or helping others in need, respectively. Relatively little research has, however, been dedicated to investigate how social neuroscience may be leveraged to address one of the major challenges of our time and day, the climate crisis/emergency. In my talk, I will provide an overview of emerging studies and a roadmap towards how neuroscience in general and social neuroscience specifically can be beneficial to understand how the changing climate acts on our (social) brain and how neuroscience research may contribute to a better understanding of drivers and obstacles of individual and collective climate action.



Claus Lamm is a Full Professor of Biological Psychology, with a specialization in Social, Cognitive, and Affective Neuroscience. After spending several formative years abroad, he founded the SCAN-Unit upon returning to Vienna in 2010. The goal of his group is to foster a thriving interdisciplinary research environment that leads to innovative and cutting-edge research in the domain of Social Cognitive Neuroscience. Mentoring and supporting Early Career Researchers at the Faculty and beyond are central aims of his academic activities.
His scientific interests focus on the neural underpinnings of empathy and prosocial behaviour. He has made pioneering contributions in this domain and continues to pursue increasingly complex research approaches to unravel these multifaceted phenomena. This includes multi-modal investigations combining neuroimaging with psychopharmacology and psychoneuroendocrinology, as well as comparative approaches to study empathy and its precursors in ravens and dogs. More recently, he has also established a new research line addressing questions related to environmental social neuroscience and decision making. In addition to his affiliation with the Faculty of Psychology, he is a member of the Environment & Climate Change Hub, the Vienna Cognitive Science Hub, and the Sustainability Advisory Board of the University of Vienna. He is also a member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

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PROF. VALERIO SANTANGELO
UNIVERSITA' DI PERUGIA

FUNCTIONAL NEUROIMAGING OF HIGHLY SUPERIOR AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL MEMORY

Highly Superior Autobiographical Memory (HSAM) is a rare condition in which individuals can recall personal events from nearly every day of their lives with striking accuracy and detail. Over the past decade, we screened the Italian population to identify individuals with this ability and employed functional neuroimaging (fMRI) to investigate its neural basis. Using both task-based and resting-state paradigms, we found that HSAM is linked to distinct patterns of brain activity and connectivity within networks supporting autobiographical recall, self-referential processing, and temporal organization. Individuals with HSAM showed heightened engagement of core regions of the autobiographical memory network, with a particularly prominent role for the ventromedial prefrontal cortex. Notably, this increased activity emerged not only during autobiographical retrieval but also at rest, suggesting that HSAM may involve enhanced encoding and consolidation of external experiences. Together, these findings reveal unique functional interactions among brain regions that sustain HSAM. This talk will review these results and consider their implications for memory research and clinical neuroscience, with the perspective that identifying mechanisms underlying HSAM may ultimately help to inform strategies for supporting memory in pathological conditions.

Valerio Santangelo is Full Professor of General Psychology. He received his MSc in Experimental Psychology from the Sapienza University of Rome in 2000, followed by a Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology in 2005. During his postdoctoral career, he was a visiting researcher at the Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford (2006-2007). In 2008 he joined the Functional Neuroimaging Laboratory at the IRCCS Santa Lucia Hospital, Rome, as a postdoctoral researcher, and in 2009 he was appointed Assistant Professor with tenure at the University of Perugia. In 2015 he was promoted to associate professor, while in 2025 he was appointed full professor. In 2022 he extended his international experience as a Fulbright Visiting Research Scholar at the Department of Psychology, Harvard University. Prof. Santangelo's research focuses on attention and memory, using a variety of experimental methods ranging from psychophysical measures to functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). He has published over 80 peer-reviewed articles in such prestigious journals as Neuron, PNAS, Cortex, Journal of Neuroscience, and Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews. He has received several national and international research grants, including funding from the Italian Ministry of Health, the Italian Ministry of Universities and Research, and the BIAL Foundation.