



Aarhus, April 2013

I N V I T A T I O N

Autism

Master of Science (Psychology) Line Gebauer is defending her PhD thesis:
Music and language processing in Autism Spectrum Disorder.



Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder, which means that the brain function differently and is differently connected in people diagnosed with autism. People with autism often have impaired language, stereotypic behaviors/interests and social-emotional difficulties. This PhD project investigated brain organization and function in autism, and emotional brain processing of music and speech. Our findings indicate that people with autism are more emotionally affected by music than speech, and that other brain regions are implicated in processing music in people with autism compared to so-called 'normal' individuals. Furthermore, certain personality traits characteristic of autism, such as social and language problems, or attention to details, are also present in varying degrees in 'normal' individuals. It seems that the brain of 'normal' people with many autistic traits show large similarities with people who have an autism diagnosis. These findings helps to understand brain organization and function in autism, and indicate that music might be particularly effective for people with autism to experience and communicate emotions.

The PhD project has been made at Center of Functionally Integrative Neuroscience (CFIN) at Aarhus University / Aarhus University Hospital.

DATE: Friday 19 April 2013
TIME: 15:00
PLACE: Pathological Auditorium
Aarhus University Hospital, Building 18, Nørrebrogade 44, 8000 Aarhus C.

Opponents:

Professor Dr.Med.Sc. **Eckart Altenmüller**, University of Music, Drama and Media, Hannover, Germany
Dr. **Katie Overy**, Senior Lecturer, University of Edinburg, Scotland
Professor Dr.Med.Sc. **Gregers Wegener** (chairman), Department of Clinical Medicine, Aarhus University, DK

Supervisor:

Professor **Peter Vuust**, Center of Functionally Integrative Neuroscience (CFIN), Aarhus University, DK

The defense is public and will be in English.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

After the defense CFIN is hosting a reception in front of the auditorium.

More information:

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Center of Functionally Integrative Neuroscience

www.cfin.au.dk

Aarhus University / Aarhus University Hospital