



The LEAD Graduate School & Research Network at the University of Tübingen invites you to attend the lecture
by

Dr. Adriene Beltz
Assistant Professor of Psychology

“Putting the *i* in gender: Person-specific analyses of psychopathology and cognition”

Wednesday June 30, 2021 at 04.00 pm (MESZ)
(We are happy to send you the Zoom Link via E-Mail)

Abstract:

Each person is unique, but this is not reflected in study designs and analyses that treat individuals as interchangeable members of a group (e.g., according to gender or sex). These analyses utilize averages based on the assumption that variations among people reflect noise – not meaningful signal. If this assumption is violated, which is often the case in studies of human behavior and brain function, then mathematical theorems show that averaging actually produces inaccurate results that do not apply to anyone in the sample. Therefore, in this presentation, I will highlight the individualized nature of gendered phenomena by using person-specific approaches to analyze 75-day intensive longitudinal and functional magnetic resonance imaging data to uncover who is – and who is not – reflected in averages typically used to describe girls and women or boys and men. Specifically, I will discuss three papers that provide insight into gendered psychopathology and cognition. I will show: 1) how personalized affective dimensions are related to anxiety in different ways for most men and women; 2) that self-perceptions of masculinity and femininity fluctuate daily – more so in women than men, but with greater psychological adjustment consequences for some men than for most women; and 3) that neural networks underlying spatial cognition are linked to exogenous sex hormones in hormonal contraceptives in distinct ways for individual women.

Biography:

Dr. Adriene Beltz is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Michigan. She is a quantitative developmentalist who creates and implements innovative time-indexed analyses to understand biopsychosocial influences on gender disparities in psychopathology and cognition across the lifespan. Dr. Beltz received her Ph.D. in Psychology, specializing in Social, Cognitive, and Affective Neuroscience from the Pennsylvania State University working with Dr. Sheri Berenbaum on human behavioral neuroendocrinology, and then she transitioned to a post-doctoral position in Human Development and Family Studies at the same university working with Dr. Peter Molenaar on network analysis approaches for brain and behavioral data. Her work has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, Jacobs Foundation, and James S. McDonnell Foundation. She has also received awards from the Association for Psychological Science as well as Divisions 5 (Methods) and 6 (Behavioral Neuroscience) of the American Psychological Association.

Important Publications:

- **Beltz, A. M.**, Loviska, A. M., Weigard, A. (2021). Daily gender expression is associated with psychological adjustment for some people, but mainly men. *Scientific Reports*, 11, article 9114. doi: 10.1038/s41598-021-88279-4
- **Beltz, A. M.**, & Moser, J. S. (2020). Ovarian hormones: A long overlooked, but critical contributor to cognitive brain structures and function. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1464(1), 156-180. doi: 10.1111/nyas.14255
- Foster, K. T., & **Beltz, A. M.** (in press). Heterogeneity in affective complexity among men and women. *Emotion*. doi: 10.1037/emo0000956

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