

Forskningskonferanse Helgelandssykehuset 6-7 okt. 2021

## Kjønnsbalanse og likestilling i academia

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# Elektrofysiologiske data gir økt kunnskap om hjernens kognitive kontrollfunksjoner

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UiO • University of Oslo



# Publiserte artikler 2021 (\* = nivå 2 tidsskrift)



\*Kam, J. W. Y., Helfrich, R. H., Lin, J. J., **Solbakk, A. K.**, Endestad, T., Larsson, P., & Knight, R. T. (2021). Top-down attentional modulation in human frontal cortex: Differential engagement during external and internal attention. *Cerebral Cortex*, 31(2), 873-883.

\*Buades-Rotger, M., **Solbakk, A. K.**, Liebrand, M., Endestad, T., Funderud, I., Siegwardt, P., Enter, D., Roelofs, K., & Krämer, U. M. (2021). Patients with ventromedial prefrontal lesions show an implicit approach bias to angry faces. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 33(6), 1069–1081.

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\*Levine, B., Rosenbaum, R. S., **Solbakk, A. K.**, & D'Esposito, M. (2021). Introduction to the special issue. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 33(9), 1635.

\*Liebrand, M., **Solbakk, A. K.**, Funderud, I., Buades-Rotger, M., Knight, R. T., & Krämer, U. M. (2021). Intact proactive motor inhibition after unilateral prefrontal cortex or basal ganglia lesions. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 33(9), 1862–1879.

\*Slama, S., Jimenez, R., Saha, S., King-Stephens, D., Laxer, K. D., Weber, P. B., Endestad, T., Ivanovic, J., Larsson, P. G., **Solbakk, A. K.**, Lin, J. J., & Knight, R. T. (2021). Intracranial recordings demonstrate both cortical and medial temporal lobe engagement in visual search in humans. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 33(9), 1833–1861.



\***Solbakk, A. K.**, Lubell, J., Leske, S., Funderud, I., Llorens, A., Blenkmann, A. O., Foldal, M. D., Meling, T. R., Knight, R. T., & Endestad, T. (2021). Monitoring of self-paced action timing and sensory outcomes after lesions to the orbitofrontal cortex. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 33(9), 1956–1975.

## Perspective

# Gender bias in academia: A lifetime problem that needs solutions

Anaïs Llorens,<sup>1,39,\*</sup> Athina Tzovara,<sup>1,2,3,39,\*</sup> Ludovic Bellier,<sup>1,40</sup> Ilina Bhaya-Grossman,<sup>4,40</sup> Aurélie Bidet-Caulet,<sup>5,40</sup> William K. Chang,<sup>1,40</sup> Zachariah R. Cross,<sup>6,40</sup> Rosa Dominguez-Faus,<sup>7,40</sup> Adeen Flinker,<sup>8,40</sup> Yvonne Fonken,<sup>1,9,40</sup> Mark A. Gorenstein,<sup>1,10,40</sup> Chris Holdgraf,<sup>1,11,40</sup> Colin W. Hoy,<sup>1,40</sup> Maria V. Ivanova,<sup>10,40</sup> Richard T. Jimenez,<sup>1,40</sup> Soyeon Jun,<sup>1,12,40</sup> Julia W.Y. Kam,<sup>1,13,40</sup> Celeste Kidd,<sup>10,40</sup> Enitan Marcelle,<sup>1,40</sup> Deborah Marciano,<sup>1,14,40</sup> Stephanie Martin,<sup>1,15,40</sup> Nicholas E. Myers,<sup>1,16,40</sup> Karita Ojala,<sup>17,40</sup> Anat Perry,<sup>18,40</sup> Pedro Pinheiro-Chagas,<sup>19,40</sup> Stephanie K. Riès,<sup>20,40</sup> Ignacio Saez,<sup>21,40</sup> Ivan Skelin,<sup>22,40</sup> Katarina Slama,<sup>1,40</sup> Brooke Staveland,<sup>1,14,40</sup> Danielle S. Bassett,<sup>23,24,41</sup> Elizabeth A. Buffalo,<sup>25,41</sup> Adrienne L. Fairhall,<sup>26,41</sup> Nancy J. Kopell,<sup>27,41</sup> Laura J. Kray,<sup>14,41</sup> Jack J. Lin,<sup>28,29,41</sup> Anna C. Nobre,<sup>16,41</sup> Dylan Riley,<sup>30,41</sup> Anne-Kristin Solbakk,<sup>31,32,33,34,41</sup> Joni D. Wallis,<sup>1,10,41</sup> Xiao-Jing Wang,<sup>35,41</sup> Shlomit Yuval-Greenberg,<sup>36,41</sup> Sabine Kastner,<sup>37,41,42</sup> Robert T. Knight,<sup>1,10,41,42</sup> and Nina F. Dronkers<sup>10,38,41,42</sup>

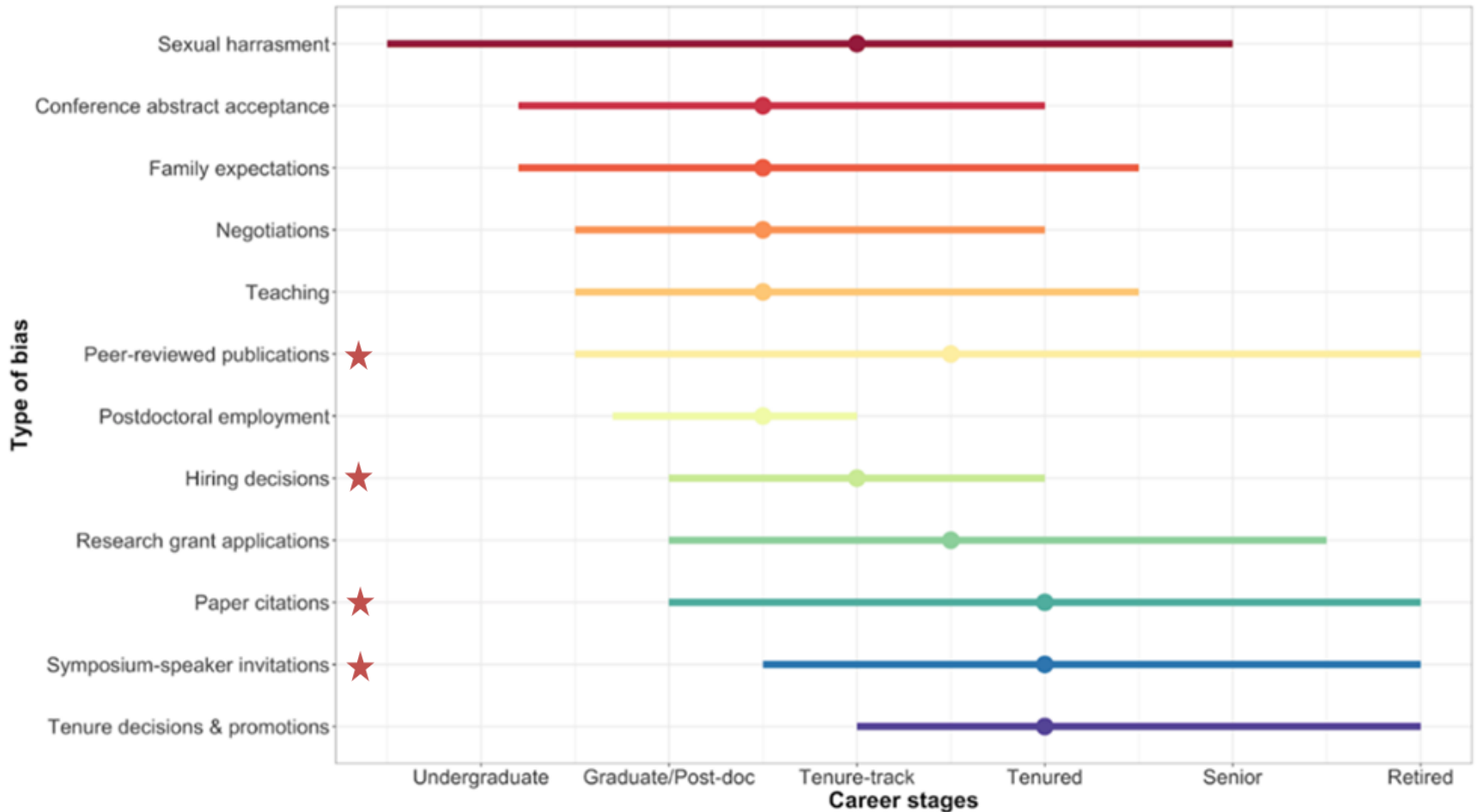


Anaïs Llorens,  
UiO/UC Berkeley

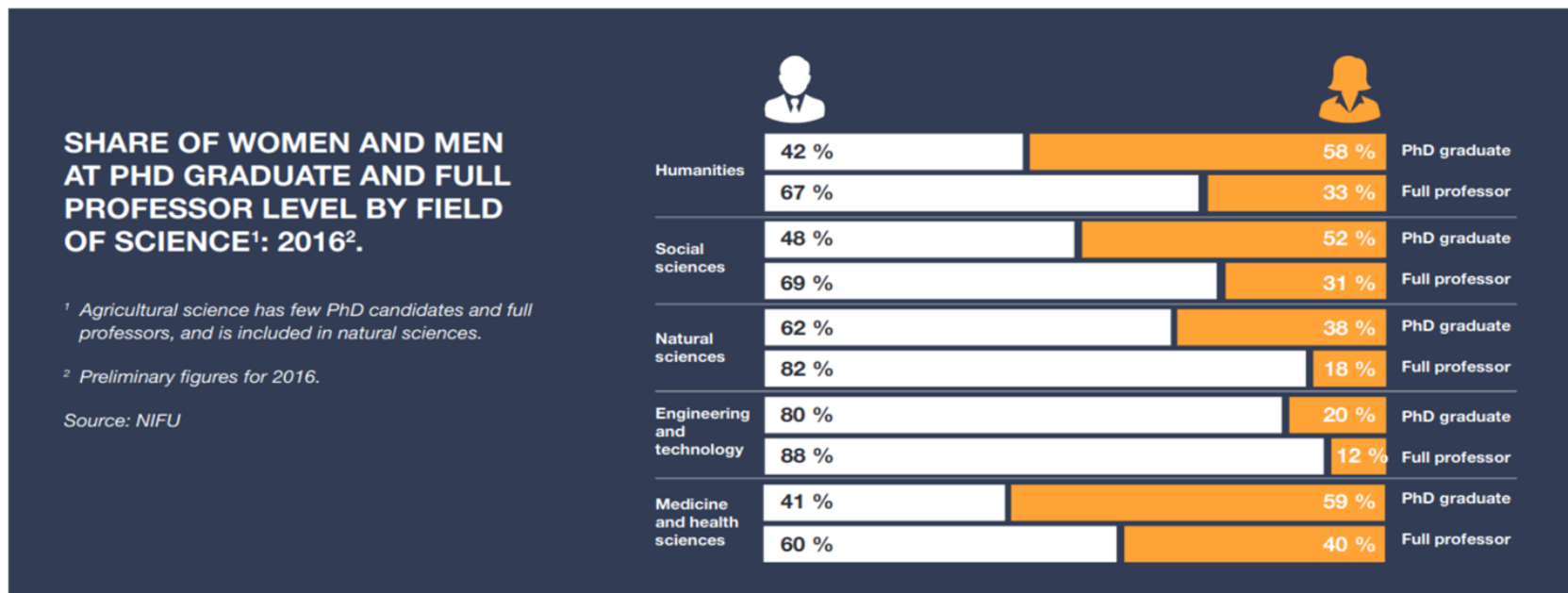
## SUMMARY

Despite increased awareness of the lack of gender equity in academia and a growing number of initiatives to address issues of diversity, change is slow, and inequalities remain. A major source of inequity is gender bias, which has a substantial negative impact on the careers, work-life balance, and mental health of underrepresented groups in science. Here, we argue that gender bias is not a single problem but manifests as a collection of distinct issues that impact researchers' lives. We disentangle these facets and propose concrete solutions that can be adopted by individuals, academic institutions, and society.

# Aspekter av kjønnskjevhet (gender bias) gjennom kvinnelige forskeres karriereløp



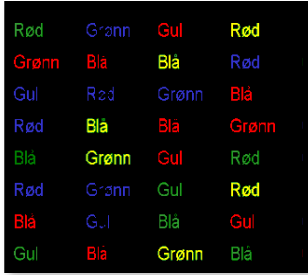
# Andel kvinner og menn etter karrierenivå og vitenskapsfelt



NIFU = Nordisk Institutt for studier av innovasjon, forskning og utdanning


# Forskning for økt kunnskap om det neurobiologiske grunnlaget for kognitive kontrollfunksjoner / eksekutiv funksjon

Behavior



**Neuropsychological tests**

Respond to the infrequent **target tones**




Don't respond to the **standard tones**


**Cognitive experiments**

## Study participants

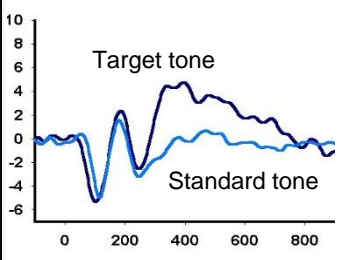
**Healthy brain**



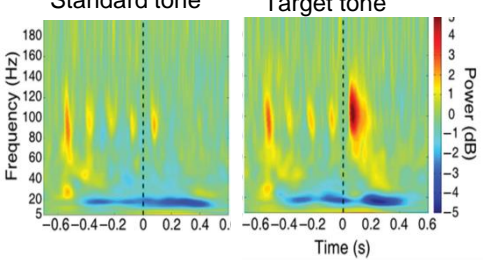
**ADHD**



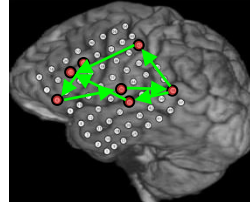
Brain structure and function



**EEG: Time-voltage (ERPs)**

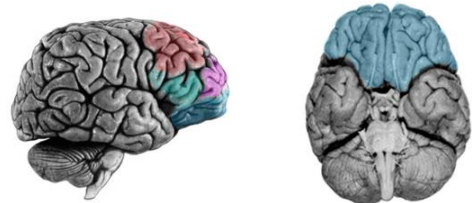


**Time-frequency**

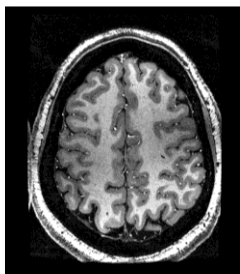


**Connectivity**

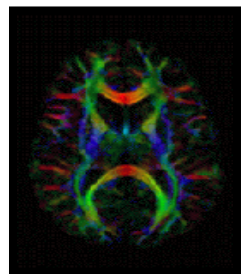
**Focal brain lesions**




**Lateral versus orbital frontal lesions**



**sMRI**

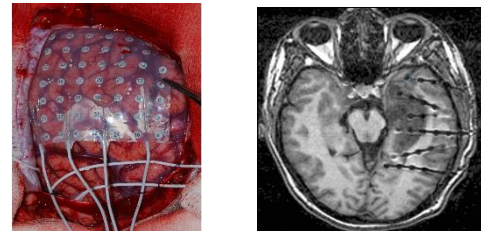


**DTI**



**fMRI-BOLD**

**Intracranial EEG – epilepsy**



**Grid or depth electrodes**



## Introduction to the Special Issue

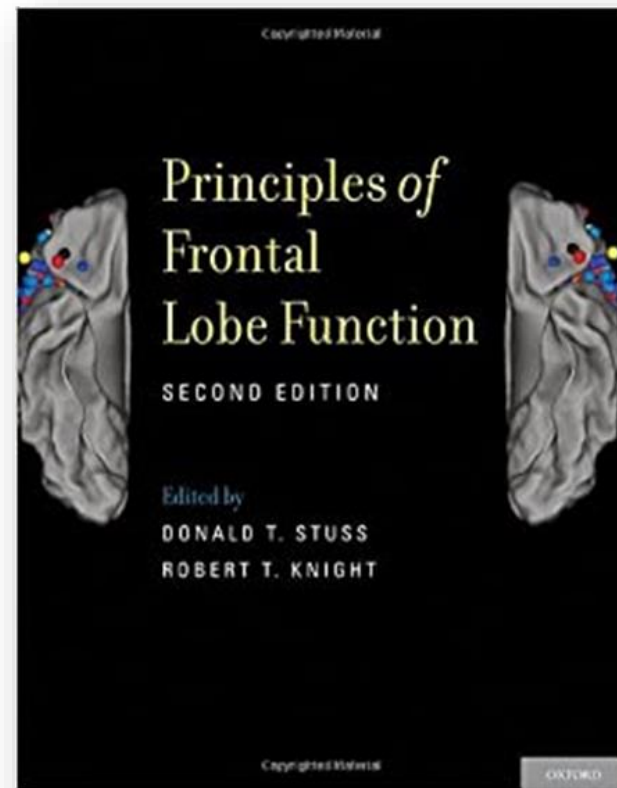
Brian Levine <sup>1 2</sup>, R Shayna Rosenbaum <sup>1 3</sup>, Anne-Kristin Solbakk <sup>4 5 6</sup>, Mark D'Esposito <sup>7</sup>

Special issue i Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience til ære for avdøde Prof. Donald T. Stuss.



Prof. Donald T. Stuss  
Univ. of Toronto

Prof. Robert T. Knight  
UC Berkeley; vår  
samarbeidspartner



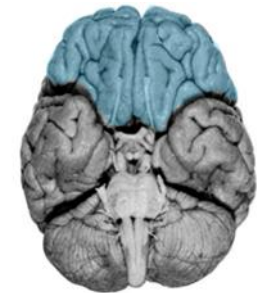
# Monitoring of Self-Paced Action Timing and Sensory Outcomes After Lesions to the Orbitofrontal Cortex

Anne-Kristin Solbakk<sup>1 2 3</sup>, James Lubell<sup>1 4</sup>, Sabine Leske<sup>1</sup>, Ingrid Funderud<sup>1 3</sup>, Anaïs Llorens<sup>2 5</sup>, Alejandro O Blenkmann<sup>1</sup>, Maja Dyhre Foldal<sup>1</sup>, Torstein R Meling<sup>6</sup>, Robert T Knight<sup>5</sup>, Tor Endestad<sup>1 3</sup>



## Abstract

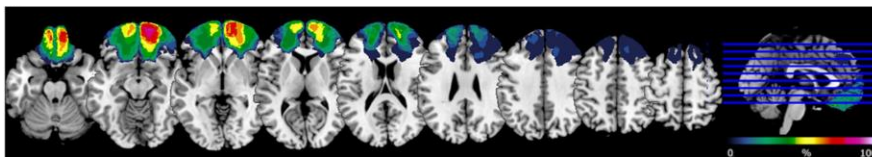
Anticipation, monitoring, and evaluation of the outcome of one's actions are at the core of proactive control. Individuals with lesions to OFC often demonstrate behaviors that indicate a lack of recognition or concern for the negative effects of their actions. Altered action timing has also been reported in these patients. We investigated the role of OFC in predicting and monitoring the sensory outcomes of self-paced actions. We studied patients with focal OFC lesions (n = 15) and healthy controls (n = 20) while they produced actions that infrequently evoked unexpected outcomes. Participants performed a self-paced, random generation task where they repeatedly pressed right and left buttons that were associated with specific sensory outcomes: a 1- and 2-kHz tone, respectively. Occasional unexpected action outcomes occurred (mismatch) that inverted the learned button-tone association (match). We analyzed ERPs to the expected and unexpected outcomes as well as action timing. Neither group showed post-mismatch slowing of button presses, but OFC patients had a higher number of fast button presses, indicating that they were inferior to controls at producing regularly timed actions. Mismatch trials elicited enhanced N2b-P3a responses across groups as indicated by the significant main effect of task condition. Planned within-group analyses showed, however, that patients did not have a significant condition effect, suggesting that the result of the omnibus analysis was driven primarily by the controls. Altogether, our findings indicate that monitoring of action timing and the sensory outcomes of self-paced actions as indexed by ERPs is impacted by OFC damage.



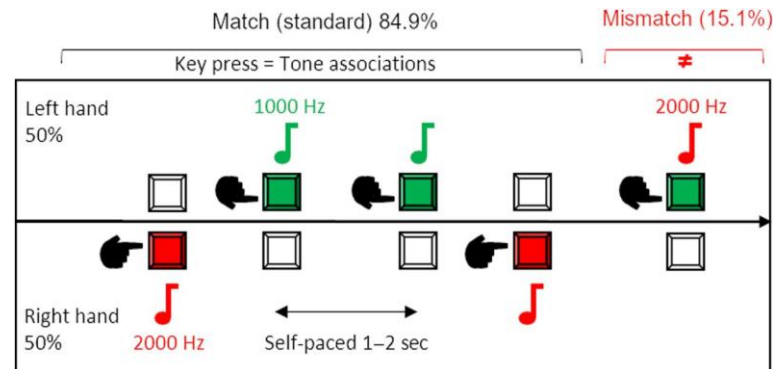
Orbitofrontal cortex



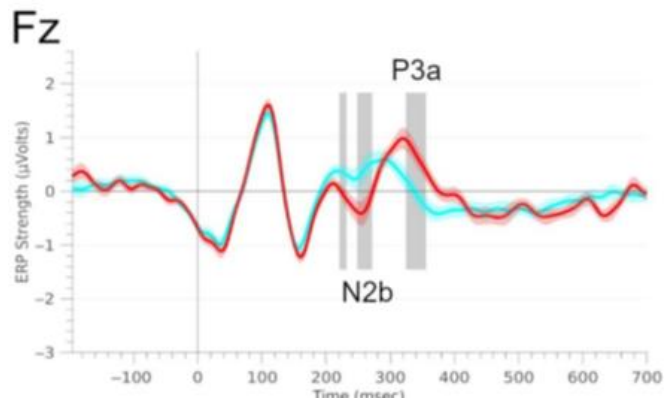
# Monitoring of Self-Paced Action Timing and Sensory Outcomes After Lesions to the Orbitofrontal Cortex



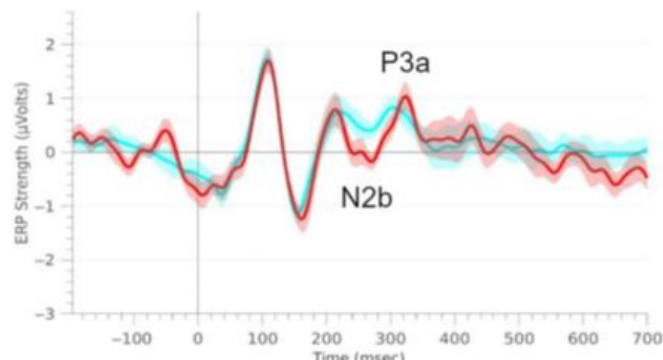
MR-basert rekonstruksjon av orbitofrontale lesjoner; «group overlay»



Friske kontrollers



Pasienter med orbitofrontal skade



Turkis = Match med forventning; Rød = Mismatch med forventning

Pasienter med orbitofrontal skade har elektrofysiologiske responser som skiller mindre mellom forventede og ikke-forventede konsekvenser av egne handlinger enn kontrollpersoner.

# Top–Down Attentional Modulation in Human Frontal Cortex: Differential Engagement during External and Internal Attention

Julia W Y Kam ✉, Randolph F Helfrich, Anne-Kristin Solbakk, Tor Endestad, Pål G Larsson, Jack J Lin, Robert T Knight

*Cerebral Cortex*, Volume 31, Issue 2, February 2021, Pages 873–883,

## Abstract

Decades of electrophysiological research on top-down control converge on the role of the lateral frontal cortex in facilitating attention to behaviorally relevant external inputs. However, the involvement of frontal cortex in the top-down control of attention directed to the external versus internal environment remains poorly understood. To address this, we recorded intracranial electrocorticography while subjects directed their attention externally to tones and responded to infrequent target tones, or internally to their own thoughts while ignoring the tones. Our analyses focused on frontal and temporal cortices. We first computed the target effect, as indexed by the difference in high frequency activity (70-150 Hz) between target and standard tones. Importantly, we then compared the target effect between external and internal attention, reflecting a top-down attentional effect elicited by task demands, in each region of interest. Both frontal and temporal cortices showed target effects during external and internal attention, suggesting this effect is present irrespective of attention states. However, only the frontal cortex showed an enhanced target effect during external relative to internal attention. These findings provide electrophysiological evidence for top-down attentional modulation in the lateral frontal cortex, revealing preferential engagement with external attention.



Julia Kam

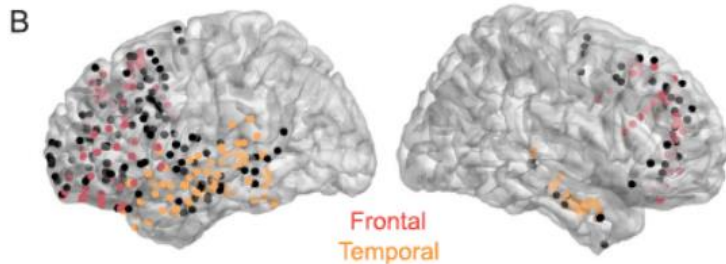
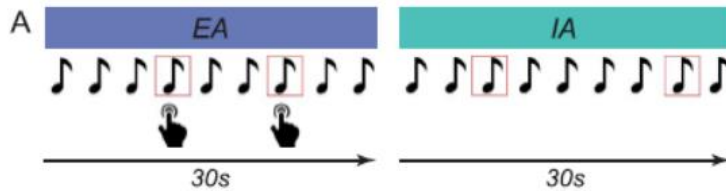


Robert T. Knight

# Top-Down Attentional Modulation in Human Frontal Cortex: Differential Engagement during External and Internal Attention

Eksternt rettet oppmerksomhet:  
Fokuser på tonene og trykk til de høye tonene (target).

Internt rettet oppmerksomhet:  
Fokuser kun på tankene dine, ignorer tonene.



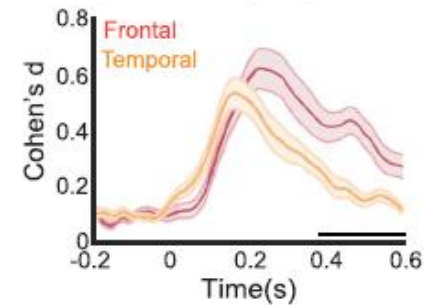
## Intrakraniell EEG

Røde prikker: elektroder i frontal korteks som responderer på toner

Oransje prikker: elektroder i temporal korteks som responderer på toner

Sorte prikker: elektroder som ikke responderer på toner

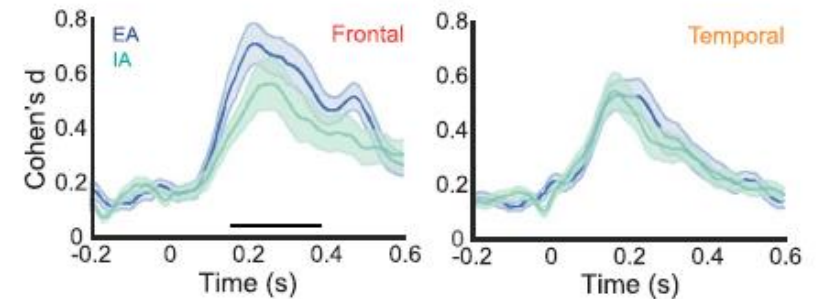
## A. Target Effect (Target - Standard)



Kurvene illustrerer forskjeller i gamma aktivitet (70-150 Hz) mellom target og standard tone.

Frontal korteks responderer sterkere og med økt latens til target tone enn temporal korteks.

## B. Attention Modulation of Target Effect



Frontal korteks responderer sterkere til target toner når oppmerksomheten skal rettes mot tonene enn når personen kun skal fokusere på tankene (blå kurve) sine og ignorere tonene (grønn kurve).

Temporal korteks skiller ikke mellom eksternt og internt rettet oppmerksomhet.

# Takk for oppmerksomheten!



## Front Neurolab – RITMO / Helgeland Hospital

- Head of lab, Assoc. prof. Anne-Kristin Solbakk
- Head of lab, Assoc. prof. Tor Endestad
- Head of lab, PhD cand. Venke A. Grane
- Postdoc PhD/MD Andras Puszta
- Postdoc PhD Ingrid Funderud
- Postdoc PhD Maja Dyhre Foldal
- Postdoc PhD Sabine Leske
- Postdoc PhD Alejandro Blenkmann
- Postdoc PhD Anais Llorens
- PhD student Sandra Solli
- PhD student Connor Speech
- PhD student Olgerta Asko
- Lab engineer Rahul O. Agrawal

## Key collaborators

- Prof. Anne Danielsen, Music dept./RITMO, UiO
- Prof. Rene Huster, Psychology dept., UiO
- MD Jugo Ivanovic, Neurosurgery dept., OUS
- PhD/MD Einar Vik-Moe, Neurosurg dept., OUS
- PhD/MD Pål G. Larsson, Neurosurg dept., OUS
- Prof. MD Torstein Meling, Neurosurgery dept., Univ. hospital Geneva, Switzerland
- Prof. MD Robert T. Knight, Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, UC Berkeley, USA
- Prof. Ulrike Krämer, Neurology dept., Univ. of Lübeck, Germany
- Assoc. prof. MD Randolph Helfrich, University of Tübingen, Germany
- Assoc. prof. Julia Kam, Univ. of Calgary, Canada