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FEBRUARY

11:00

Aula 2A PSIC02

Behavioural and Neural Signatures of Visual Body (mis)perception

Valentina Cazzato - John Moores University

Brief Summary

Visual representation of the body is a key aspect of self-body image. Its importance in our social life is proved by the unreasonable time and effort we put on taking care of our physical appearance, including use of plastic surgery, as well as by the severe mental disorders linked to its disturbance, such as Eating Disorders. Functional or structural alterations of temporo-parietal nodes in the brain may contribute to the development of disturbances in perceptual and affective components of body representation in clinical conditions. In this talk, I will present a series of studies to demonstrate the necessity of the functional integrity of key brain areas to self and other' body perception. Clinical implications and future directions are also discussed.



Valentina is a Senior Lecturer in Cognitive Neuroscience and Leader of the Body Image Lab at Liverpool John Moores University (UK).

After completing a PhD at 'Sapienza' University of Rome (Italy), she became interested in the neural underpinnings of body representation in healthy and eating disorders populations during her post-doc at the University of Udine (Italy). She had since then continued to research in this area which now spans across a broad range of topics, including the psychological and neural bases of body representation in healthy and people suffering from body image disturbances. Furthermore, she is interested in understanding how individual differences for e.g., in interoceptive ability and sociocultural factors in western societies are related to body aesthetics and (negative) body image.



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