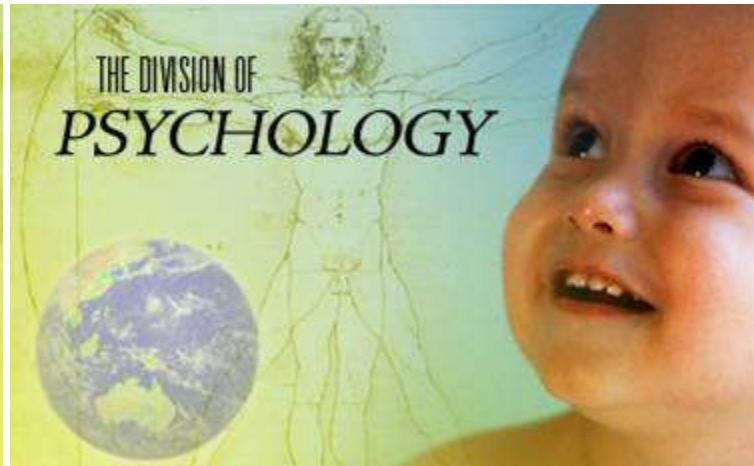


***Research
Seminar
Series***



**Biological underpinnings of the motivational needs for
power and affiliation in humans**

**Professor Oliver Schultheiss, Ph.D
Friedrich Alexander University**

**10 March 2009 (Tuesday) 11:30am – 12:30pm
HSS Seminar Room 6 (S3.2-B3-06)**

Abstract

Humans share with other animals motivational systems that support the pursuit of close, friendly contact with conspecifics (affiliation) and of the means to gain dominance over others (power). In this talk, I will illustrate the biological underpinnings of these motivational systems from an individual-differences perspective. In particular, I will discuss the role of sympathetic catecholamines, glucocorticoids and gonadal steroids in dominance-related victories and defeats and their functional consequences for the individual. I will also present findings that suggest a critical role for progesterone in human affiliation motivation.

Biography

Professor Schultheiss is currently Chair for Experimental Psychology, Motivation, and Affective Neuroscience at Friedrich-Alexander University, Erlangen, Germany. He obtained his Ph.D from Friedrich-Alexander University and has held academic positions in University

of Michigan, University of Potsdam, and Harvard University. He is the recipient of numerous grants, awards, and honours such as fellowships from the German Research Society, the American National Science Foundation, and the American National Institutes of Mental Health.

Professor Schultheiss is the author of over forty peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters and a forthcoming edited handbook on various subjects surrounding the topic of implicit motives. His main areas of research are the endocrine underpinnings of implicit motives, the relationship between implicit and explicit levels of motivation, the role of implicit motives in the processing of facial expressions of emotion, and how implicit motives influence Pavlovian and instrumental learning. Recently, Professor Schultheiss has also started to examine the ability to quickly name nonverbal stimuli as a fundamental cognitive trait and how this trait interacts with brain asymmetries in perception and motor control in a variety of phenomena related to motivation and personality.

~~~~~ All Are Welcome ~~~~~