



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO



Population Neuroscience and Social Cognition: What Is Shaping Face Perception?

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There is growing interest in explaining the role of environment, genes and their interplay in shaping the structure and function of the human brain. Given the variety of environmental factors and the challenges of genetics of complex traits, these questions are best addressed at a population level, hence the emergence of population neuroscience as a field situated at the intersection of cognitive neuroscience, genetics, and epidemiology (Paus, 2010). Dr. Paus will start his presentation by reviewing challenges associated with designing population-based magnetic-resonance (MR) studies, such as sampling and recruitment strategies, quality assurance and quality control, inter-site coordination and databasing, as well as reliability of structural and functional MR phenotypes. He will then explore environmental and genetic factors shaping the neural circuits underlying processing of faces, a part of the human body that provides a rich source of information about a person's behavioral state and serves, in turn, as a powerful predictor guiding inter- personal interactions. In this context, he will discuss his findings obtained in longitudinal and cross-sectional studies of the adolescent brain.

When: Thursday, April 7th, 2010, 4:00pm

Where: Harper Memorial Library, Room 130

*Center for Cognitive and Social Neuroscience: Spring 2011 Speaker Series
for more information, please visit ccsn.uchicago.edu/events*