



Colloquium lecture of Dr. Kalina J. Michalska

Mapping the developmental pathways of aggression and anxiety through the neurobiology of empathy and fear

A fundamental question in developmental science is how children come to understand the emotions of others when deciding how to act. One of the most important everyday arenas of such an ability is responding to others' distress with empathy and understanding rather than aggression or fear. In this talk, I will explore the neurobiological and social factors that lead some children to respond maladaptively to the distress of another, focusing on neural circuitry involved in threat and safety learning. Together, these findings point to important interactions between temperamental predispositions and social learning processes that underlie how children map the interpersonal domain and highlight new directions for future research.

Kalina Michalska, Ph.D.

Dr. Michalska is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of California, Riverside, with affiliate appointments in the Neuroscience Program, the Department of Psychiatry at the School of Medicine, and the Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies. Prior to joining UCR, Dr. Michalska received her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of Chicago and then completed a Research Fellowship at the National Institute of Mental Health Intramural Research Program.

Dr. Michalska combines neuroimaging (fMRI), autonomic measures, and behavior observations to understand the neural systems underlying emotional processes engaged by the distress of others. She is interested in how those processes mature across development, how individual differences are expressed, and how they relate to disruptive behavior problems and anxiety in childhood.



The colloquium lectures of this semester take place online!

Thursday, March 18th 2021; 4 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92483043383?pwd=czdKTWnUnJGWFNVRVNSWmMxL3J0UT09>

Meeting ID: 924 8304 3383

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