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DEPARTMENT FÜR PSYCHOLOGIE
LEHRSTUHL FÜR ENTWICKLUNGSPSYCHOLOGIE UND
PÄDAGOGISCHE PSYCHOLOGIE



Guest Lecture

We cordially invite you to attend the guest lecture by

Lori Markson, PhD

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Washington University in St Louis
USA*



Children's reasoning about social exclusion

Day: Monday, May 9th, 2016

Time: 16:00 – 18:00

Place: Leopoldstr. 13, Room 3221

The basic human need to belong has an evolutionary basis and is largely universal. Our intensely social nature provides us with the motivation to seek acceptance, but also makes us vulnerable to rejection. The awareness of and ability to evaluate social interactions appears to emerge in infancy. Infants discriminate between positive and negatively valence interactions and even recognize dominance hierarchies in their observations of third-party interactions. However, there has been little research on the emergence of the motivation to seek acceptance and avoid rejection. Research in my lab has been exploring the developmental trajectory of children's early reasoning about the social dynamics of inclusion and exclusion. We present 2- to 4-year-old children with an instance of a group dynamic in which all individuals are included or a single individual is excluded. Our results suggest that by three years of age, children begin to differentiate between excluders and those who have been excluded based on their intentions and interactions. The results will be discussed in the context of a broader theoretical framework for thinking about the emergence and development of the human sensitivity to social exclusion.