

LECTURE SERIES

**Tuesday,
2nd October
2018**

12:15 - 13:15

Campus Biotech
Room H8.01.D
9, chemin des Mines
Geneva

Neural approaches to the study of emotion evoked by (figurative) language by (figurative) language

Dr. Francesca Citron

(Lancaster University)

In the last 15 years research on the effects of emotional content on language processing has flourished, showing that words (bear, kiss) can trigger affective responses as much as their actual referents. In this talk I'll present a brief overview of this research with a specific focus on electrophysiological and neuroimaging findings. I will then move on to present my recent past and on-going neuroimaging research on the comprehension of figurative expressions such as metaphors (*She looked at him sweetly*), and idioms (*He's over the moon*). Our findings consistently show that figurative expressions evoke stronger affective responses in the brain than their literal counterparts (i.e., *She looked at him kindly*; *He's happy*), therefore suggesting a special role of figurative language in engaging readers and listeners. I welcome questions and discussion on these topics and will touch upon future directions, i.e., multilingualism; aesthetic perception, with a view to possibly establish new collaborations ■

Swiss Doctoral School in Affective Sciences

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