

Corso di Dottorato in Scienze Psicologiche

School meeting

GIOVEDÌ 06 APRILE 2017 - Ore 13.00 - Aula Cesare Musatti

presenta:

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Perception and attention in deaf individuals: consolidated results and open questions

Abstract:

In the last decades research on deaf cognition has addressed the topic of perceptual and attentional abilities in early deaf individuals, focusing in particular on visual processing. Several results are now consolidated: some behavioural abilities are potentiated in comparison with the hearing population (e.g., localisation of stimuli at the periphery of the visual field, detection and discrimination of visual motion, reactivity to abrupt visual stimuli); other abilities present appear instead limited (e.g., temporal duration processing). In addition, the neural correlates of these behavioural changes are starting to emerge, revealing changes within the neural structures involved in the processing of the intact sensory modalities (such as the visual pathway and the visual cortices), and in the de-afferented brain regions (such as the auditory cortices). Despite these substantial advances, several aspects of this research domain remain unexplored. For instance, the contribution of attention and cognitive control in the enhanced perceptual processes of deaf individuals remained elusive. Likewise, the development of these perceptual and attentive abilities from childhood to adulthood is only partially defined. Finally, the interactions between vision and the other intact sensory modalities (e.g., somatosensation) are largely unexplored. In this seminar I will present current perspectives on perception and attention abilities in early deafness, and addressed some of the unexplored topics through examples from recent works conducted in my research group.