



EINLADUNG

zum Vortrag im Rahmen des Seminars des SFB/TRR 31

Freitag, 21. Oktober 2016, 11.00 Uhr c.t.

im Raum H28 / R 2.31 des Med. Campus Magdeburg und
Raum W30 0-27/28 der Universität Oldenburg (NeSSy) (per Videoübertragung)

"The emergence and development of musical preferences"

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Listening to music is a ubiquitous everyday phenomenon. For many people, music is an essential means to cope with life's issues, to regulate emotions and physiological arousal, and to foster social relationships. Yet, people apparently differ in the musical styles they like and listen to. Where do these inter-individual differences in musical preferences come from? Despite a long tradition in music-psychology research there is no conclusive theory or model that can reliably explain and predict musical preferences. However, recent research suggests that musical preferences are substantially influenced by the functions of music listening, that is, the deliberate use of music to attain specific intended effects. I will present a series of studies demonstrating that the functions of music are the key component in understanding musical preferences. In the second part, I will present a novel hypothesis about one of music's greatest mysteries – its potential to induce highly intense emotional chill experiences such as goose bumps or shivers. It is argued that chill experiences are induced by contrastive affect resulting from a sequence of very brief automatic subcortical activation followed by slow cortical inhibition. The hypothesis is yet to be tested.