

The Human Sense of Smell (Olfaction)

LECTURE

The sense of smell is important in various areas including appreciation of foods and drinks, as a warning system (e.g. poisonous fumes), or as a social signal between humans, e.g. when crying or when developing an infection. The sense of smell has an impact on reproductive behaviour including inbreeding avoidance and mate selection, as well as emotional contagion. In this context, olfactory dysfunction is an increasingly recognised condition. However, the sense of smell remains relatively poorly researched and is often neglected by the scientific community. This may be due to the subtle effects of sense of smell on our behaviour. In this symposium we plan to show several aspects of olfaction, mostly in a clinical context. How do we test olfactory function? What are olfactory disorders and how can we treat them?



Examination of olfactory training effectiveness in relation to its complexity, duration and the cause of olfactory loss

Dr Anna Oleszkiewicz is a social and evolutionary psychologist. She works at the University of Wrocław, Institute of Psychology, and at the Smell & Taste Clinic at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at Technische Universität Dresden. Her research interests focus on the role of human senses in social cognition processes.



Olfaction and blindness: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Dr Agnieszka Sorokowska is an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Wrocław and a research fellow in psychology at Technische Universität Dresden. She is mostly interested in sensory science with a particular focus on human taste and olfaction.

Olfaction and blindness: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Dr Piotr Sorokowski is an associate professor and head of the Institute of Psychology at the University of Wrocław, Poland. His main research interests include evolutionary, social and cross-cultural psychology, with a particular focus on human attractiveness.



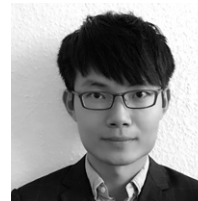
Olfaction and Depression

Jun Prof Ilona Croy studied psychology and completed her training in psychodynamic psychotherapy in Dresden, where she also obtained her doctoral degree. During her doctoral thesis, she worked in the lab of Prof Hummel and examined the olfactory processing in mental disorders. She spent three years as a post-doc in Gothenburg, where she studied the impact of noise and vibration on sleep and mental health, sparking her interest in the area of affective touch.



Disorders of Olfaction

Prof Antje Haehner is an Adjunct Professor in the Smell & Taste Clinic at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, University Hospital at Technische Universität Dresden. Her research focuses on olfaction in neurodegenerative disorders, improving diagnostics and treatment of any olfactory and gustatory loss.



Investigating olfactory dysfunction using brain imaging techniques

Dr Pengfei Han joined the Smell & Taste Clinic at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at Technische Universität Dresden, in May 2016. He obtained his PhD in Human Nutrition in 2016 from the University of Queensland, Australia. His work is directed toward understanding the neural mechanisms underlying smell, taste functions and dysfunctions, and their correlations with health and nutrition in humans.



Why do we need a sense of smell? What happens when it is lost?

Prof Thomas Hummel conducts research in the chemosensory systems at the Smell & Taste Clinic at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at Technische Universität Dresden. It includes an olfactory/gustatory dysfunction clinic. Investigations in these areas are performed using electrophysiological (olfactory event-related potentials, recordings from the mucosa of the nasal cavity), psychophysical, and imaging techniques (PET, fMRI).

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