

MNN BAW Seminar March 18th 2020 @ 12:15

Media & Knowledge Sciences (MAKS) Room 414

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Perceptual processing in older adults

A large part of research dedicated to age-related changes concentrates on cognitive or sensory deficits. By comparison, research on the effects of ageing on perceptual visual functions, the critical intermediate stage between sensation and cognition, is still in its infancy. It is known that certain perceptual functions change, but to what extent and how those behavioural changes relate to neural functioning is relatively unknown. Our recent studies reveal that perceptual changes in healthy ageing are rather heterogeneous and cannot be attributed to one single underlying factor. I will present studies related to low-level motion, biological motion and orientation perception that suggest that age-related changes in visual perception are to a certain extent based on visual experience such that the brain ages optimally given the visual input it receives. The studies presented are not only of interest for ageing researchers, but will lead to a more complete understanding of the processes underlying visual perception in general.