



MANCHESTER NEUROSCIENCE SEMINAR SERIES

FROM CARDIFF UNIVERSITY

DR CATHERINE JONES

Hosted by Dr Emma Gowen, Division of Psychology,
Communication and Human Neuroscience

“Interpersonal synchrony: How important is timing in conversations?”

Interpersonal synchrony (IS) refers to the temporal co-ordination of verbal and non-verbal behaviours during interaction with a partner. It encompasses a wide range of behaviours such as walking in step, nodding in time to speech, and temporal alignment of changes in speech intensity. IS has been associated with positive social outcomes, including pro-social behaviour and increased feelings of affiliation. IS is considered a cornerstone of successful interactions. However, there is evidence that it is experienced differently in certain groups, including a range of neurodivergent and psychiatric populations. Questions remain about the specific temporal features that drive the affiliative effects of synchrony but with most experimental studies focusing on the simultaneity of actions. I will discuss our experimental work, using a typically developing child sample, showing that the simultaneity and regularity of actions are both sufficient to positively affect the degree of perceived affiliation between partners. An extension to this work has found more limited evidence of the affiliative effects of IS in children with emotional and behavioural difficulties. To better understand atypical experiences of IS, we interviewed 19 autistic adults about their experiences of social timing. The findings highlight the challenges that some autistic people can find with managing the temporal dynamics of social interactions. A more complete understanding of IS needs to consider interactions within and across neurotypes, as well as recognising and valuing alternative routes to establishing affiliation and rapport.

JUNE • 14TH • 2023

2.00pm - 3.00pm

HYBRID DELIVERY

**Michael Smith Lecture Theatre and
online**

**<https://zoom.us/j/95570490792>
Meeting ID: 955 7049 0792**

EVERYONE WELCOME