

# LES CONFÉRENCES DE L'ICM



## **Patrik VUILLEUMIER**

Laboratory for Behavioral Neurology  
and Imaging of Cognition  
Dept of Neurology  
University Medical Center  
Geneva - Switzerland  
[patrik.vuilleumier@unige.ch](mailto:patrik.vuilleumier@unige.ch)

## **Hosted by Lionel NACCACHE**

If you would like to meet the speaker,  
please use the following contact:  
[lionel.naccache@gmail.com](mailto:lionel.naccache@gmail.com)

*Patrik VUILLEUMIER - January 23, 2012 at 11:00*

## **EMOTIONAL CONTROL OF PERCEPTION AND ATTENTION**

Emotions do not only serve to assign a particular value to objects or events forming the content of consciousness, but can directly influence perception and thus shape the content of consciousness and action. The talk will present an overview of functional neuroimaging studies in humans that contributed to show how sensory and motor processes can be modulated by the affective significance of stimuli. In particular, neural activity in visual and auditory cortex is enhanced for faces and voices displaying emotional expressions (particularly when threat-related), and such effects depend on modulatory feedback influences from limbic brain areas such as the amygdala, which project directly to sensory cortical areas and operate without voluntary attention control. Amygdala activity can also influence motor output systems and thus contribute to attentional mechanisms underlying the interruption of current motor plans in the presence of threat signals. Furthermore, emotional events can also influence brain activity in a more sustained manner, with long-lasting changes in brain state and functional connectivity following transient emotions, and these may in turn influence the subsequent processing of other stimuli. These data also have implications to better understand and assess neural mechanisms that may be implicated in psychiatry disorders.

**Lundi 23 janvier 2012 à 11h00 / Auditorium de l'ICM  
Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, 47 boulevard de l'hôpital - 75013 Paris**