Presenter: Mila Mileva, University of Plymouth, UK

Title: First impressions from faces and voices

Abstract: Despite the fact that we are constantly reminded not to judge a book by its cover, people form a first impression every time they meet someone new. These impressions can be based on human faces or voices both of which are rich sources of information. Most of the literature on face/voice perception has focused on understanding how people look and sound different to each other (between-person variability). However, recent studies highlight the ways in which the same person can look and sound different on different occasions (within-person variability). Here, I will present data from a series of experiments comparing within- and between-person variability in social judgements attributed to different sets of face and voice stimuli. We show that trait impressions of voices are consistently more variable within-, rather than between people, a pattern that is only evident occasionally when judging faces. Moreover, in everyday life, first impressions are most often formed after being presented with audiovisual information. Therefore, I will also discuss data on audiovisual impressions and the relative contribution of facial and vocal information for judgements of trustworthiness and dominance. Findings from all experiments highlight the importance of within-person variability in first impressions and the consideration of audiovisual integration.