

Erik Marsja

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Current research

I am examining how sudden and unexpected changes in our environment captures our attention and, thus, causes distraction from what we currently are engaged in. Specifically, my Ph.D. work is examining how sudden and unexpected changes in auditory, tactile, and the combination of both auditory and tactile (multisensory) stimulation affects performance in speeded and short-term memory tasks.

Research ambition

My goal is to create my academic career in cognitive psychology. Mainly doing ground research but also more applied (e.g., multisensory alarms). Specifically, in the areas of attention and cognitive control. I aspire to eventually be able to work as an established researcher in these, and related, areas (i.e., cognitive neuroscience).

Education and Degrees

- 2012-Present Ph.D. Student in Psychology
- 2011-2012 M.Sc. in Cognitive Science (*Thesis:* Attention Capture: The Impact of Change in Spatial Sound Source on Behavior- Department of Psychology, Umeå University.
- 2008-2011 B.Sc. in Cognitive Science (*Thesis:* Attention Capture: Studying the Distracting Effect of One's Own Name. Department of Psychology, Umeå University. Available from DiVA Database (<http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:umu:diva-46607>).

Publications

International peer-reviewed journals

Marsja, E., Neely, G., Ljungberg K.J. (Accepted). Investigating deviance distraction and the impact of the modality of the to-be-ignored stimuli. *Experimental Psychology*.

Ljungberg, K. J., Parmentier, F. B. R., Jones, D. M., **Marsja**, E., & Neely, G. (2014). "What's in a name?" "No more than when it's mine own2. Evidence from auditory oddball distraction. *Acta Psychologica*, 150C, 161–166. doi:10.1016/j.actpsy.2014.05.009.

Publications In Preperation/Submitted/Under Revision

Rosa, E., **Marsja**, E., Ljungberg K.J. (In Preparation). Vibrotactile On-thigh Alarm Detection as a Function of Flight Task Mental Workload.

Sörqvist, P., Marsh, J., **Marsja**, E., & Ljungberg, K. J. (Under revision). Irrelevant vibro-tactile stimuli produce a changing-state effect: Implications for theories of interference in short-term memory.

Marsja, E., Neely, Ljungberg, K.J (Under revision). Deviance distraction in the auditory and tactile modalities after repeated exposure: differential aspects of tactile and auditory deviants.

Current research collaborations

- Associate Professor Jessica K. Ljungberg, Department of Psychology, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden
- Associate Professor Gregory Neely, Department of Psychology, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden
- Dr. Patrik Hansson, Department of Psychology, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden
- Dr. John E. Marsh, School of Psychology, University of Central Lancashire, UK
- Professor Patrik Sörqvist, Faculty of Engineering and Sustainable Development, Högskolan i Gävle, Gävle

Conference Presentations

Marsja, E., Marsh, J.E., Neely G., Hansson P., Ljungberg K.J., (2016, September). Do Spatial Changes in Sounds and Vibrations Affect Visuo-spatial and Verbal Short-Term Memory? Attention and Control: Insights from Distraction, Workshop, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK. **Invited Talk**.

Marsja, E., Marsh, J.E., Neely G., Hansson P., Ljungberg K.J., (2016, June). Spatial Change in Multisensory Distractors Impact on Verbal and Spatial Short Term Memory. International Multisensory Research Forum 17th annual meeting, Suzhou, CHN. **Oral presentation**.

Marsja, E., Neely G., Ma, L., Ljungberg K.J., (2015, August). Cross-modality matches of intensity and attention capture dimensions of auditory and vibrotactile stimuli. Fechner Day 2015. The 31st Annual Meeting of the International Society for Psychophysics, Québec, CA. **Poster**.

Marsja, E., Neely, G., Parmentier, F.B.R., Ljungberg, K.J., (2014, October) Deviance Distraction Is Contingent on Stimuli Being Presented within the Same Modality. Psychonomic Society's 55th Annual Meeting. Long Beach, CA, USA. **Poster**.

Ljungberg, K.J., Parmentier, F.B.R., **Marsja**, E., Neely, G., Jones, D., (2014, January). Any Tom, Dick, or Harry will do: Hearing one's own name distracts no more than any other in a cross-modal oddball task. Experimental Psychology Society Meeting. London, UK. **Poster**.

Marsja, E., Neely, G., Parmentier, F.B.R., Ljungberg, K.J., (2013, October). Maintenance of the distractive effect of deviating vibrotactile stimuli in a cross-modal oddball paradigm. the 29th Annual meeting of the International Society of Psychophysics, Freiburg, DE. **Poster**.

Funding and Grants

8000 SEK from the Department of Psychology for participating the conference 17th International Multisensory Research Forum 15-18 June, Suzhou, China, 2016.

10 000 SEK from JC Kempes minnesfond for the project *Is everyday distractibility related to attention capture by vibrating deviants?*, 2014.

9 000 SEK from Knut och Alice Wallenbergs Stiftelse for participating in the conferences Psychonomic Society's 55th Annual Meeting, 20-23 November, and APCAM, 20 November, Long Beach, USA, 2014.

6000 SEK from the Department of Psychology for participating the conference Fechner Day 2013 (the 29th Annual Meeting of the International Society for Psychophysics) 21-25 October, Freiburg i.Br., Germany, 2013.

Teaching responsibilities

Past & current areas at undergraduate level

Primarily in:

- Attention
- Perception
- Applied Cognitive Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology
- Research Methods
- Project work

Lectures, seminars, lab demonstrations, supervision of group project (both involving empirical and applied projects) and supervision of thesis' have been given at the Department of Psychology Umeå University, Sweden. I have so far taught 603 clock hours. See Table for an overview of teaching topics.

Teaching responsibilities - an overview of type of teaching, hours, etc.

Language	Type	Semester	Year	row.names	Subject
	Cognitive Psychology	Supervision of projects	20	Introduction to Psychology	UG
Swe	Lectures	VT	2014	Developmental Psychology and Personality Theory	Research Methods
Swe	Cognitive Psychology Supervision	Supervision of projects HT	20	Introduction to Psychology	UG
Swe	Supervision of projects Cognitive Psychology	HT	2014	Master Thesis 30 ECTS	Psychology
		Supervising projects	24	Project in Cognitive Science	Cognitive Science
				Introduction to Psychology	UG
Cognitive Psychology	seminars	Lectures	20	Basic psychology and sport psychology	supervision of p
		Swe	Memory	Attention	
Attention	Supervision	VT	2015	Master Thesis 15 ECTS	Cognitive Psycd
Swe	Supervision of projects	VT	2015	Project in Cognitive Science	Cognitive Science
Swe	Supervision of projects	HT	2015	Cognitive Psychology	Cognitive Psychd
UG	HT	20	Psychology Program	Psychology of Organizations Swe	Seminars in Qu
Eng	Lab demonstrations	VT	2016	2:1 Cognition	Cognitive Psychd
examination	Lectures	VT	2016	Applied Cognitive Psychology	seminars
		Swe	Attention	Applied Cognitive Psychology	
Research Methods	VT	30	Psychology Program	Psychology of Organizations UG	Seminars in Qu
Swe	Supervision of projects	VT	2016	Project in Cognitive Science	Cognitive Science
Eng	Lab demonstrations	HT	2016	2:1 Cognition	Cognitive Psycd
Research Methods	HT	30	Psychology Program	Psychology of Organizations UG	Seminars in Qu
Attention	Lectures	HT	2016	Perception	Lab demonstrat
			UG	Consciousness	
Swe	Examining defense and op- position of Thesis	HT	2016	Master Thesis 30 ECTS	Psychology
Eng	Lab demonstrations	VT	2017	2:1 Cognition	Cognitive Psycd
Applied Cognitive Psychology	Lectures	VT	2017	Applied Cognitive Psychology	seminars
		Swe	Perception and Attention		
Swe	Supervision of projects	VT	2017	Applied Cognitive Psychology	Cognitive Science
Research Methods	VT	30	Psychology Program	Psychology of Organizations UG	Seminars in Qu
Eng	Lab demonstrations	HT	2017	2:1 Cognition	Cognitive Psycd
UG	Lectures	HT	2017	Perception	Attention and

Supervision of master students

Ma, L. (2015). Department of Psychology, Umeå University. “Cross-Modal Matching of Distractibility in Auditory and Tactile Stimuli”. Master Thesis in Cognitive Science (15 ECTS).

Blide, M. (2014). Department of Psychology, Umeå University. “Att orka lämna ett misshandelsförhållande: Anknytningens betydelse (To cope leaving abusive relationships: The importance of attachment). Master Thesis in Clinical Psychology (30 ECTS).

Additional skills

- Good skills in Microsoft Word and Excel
 - Good skills in statistical software such as SPSS and R
 - Good programming skills in Python (v2.7.x) and R
 - Basic skills in Markdown (i.e., RMarkdown) and L^AT_EX
 - Basic programming skills in Visual Basic, E-basic (E-prime), and MATLAB
 - Programming and performing experiments using both E-prime, MATLAB, and Python (i.e., PsychoPy & Experiment)
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