

Erik Marsja

2016-09-20

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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

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](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actpsy.2014.05.009).

Publications In Preperation/Submitted/Under Revision

Marsja, E., Neely, G., Ljungberg K.J. (Submitted). The impact of presence and absence of standard vibrations and deviating sounds in a visual attention task.

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 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.

Period	Subject	Type	Clock Hours	Course/Program	Level	Language
VT 2014	Cognitive Psychology Research Methods	Supervision of projects Lectures	20 60	Introduction to Psychology Developmental Psychology and Per- sonality Theory , Psychology Pro- gram	UG UG	Swe Swe
HT 2014	Cognitive Psychology Psychology Cognitive Science	Supervision of projects Supervision Supervision of projects	20 20 40	Introduction to Psychology Master Thesis 30 ECTS, Psychology Program Project in Cognitive Science, Bach- elor's Program in Cognitive Science	UG G UG	Swe Swe Swe
VT 2015	Cognitive Psychology Cognitive Psychology, Atten- tion, Perception, Memory Cognitive Psychology, Psy- chophysics, Attention Cognitive Science	Supervising projects Lectures, seminars, supervi- sion of projects, Supervision Supervision of projects	24 20 15 110	Introduction to Psychology Basic psychology and sport psychol- ogy Master Thesis 15 ECTS, Master's Program in Cognitive Science Project in Cognitive Science, Bach- elor's Program in Cognitive Science	UG UG G UG	Swe Swe Eng Swe
HT 2015	Cognitive Psychology Research Methods	Supervising projects Seminars in Qualitative re- search methods	24 20	Cognitive Psychology, Psychology Program Psychology of Organizations, Envi- ronment and Work, Psychology Pro- gram	UG UG	Swe Swe
VT 2016	Cognitive Psychology Applied Cognitive Psychol- ogy, Auditory Cognition, At- tention Research Methods Cognitive Science	Lab demonstrations Lectures, seminars, supervi- sion of projects, examination SPSS laboratory, seminars, examination Supervision of projects	30 60 30 110	2:1 Cognition, Psychology Program Applied Cognitive Psychology, Bachelor's Program in Cognitive Science Psychology of Organizations, Envi- ronment and Work, Psychology Pro- gram Project in Cognitive Science, Bach- elor's Program in Cognitive Science	UG UG UG UG	Eng Swe Swe Swe
Total of clock hours: 603						

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 \LaTeX
 - 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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