

Cognitive neuroscience of music and language

Research question

Will music evoke a more pleasurable response when the emotional content of the lyric and melody match compared to when they mismatch?

Melodies of major and minor mode will be paired with lyrics with either a more positive or negative sentiment. Earlier experiment showed that music in major mode evoke a positive emotional response while music in minor mode evokes a negative response, based on self-report on a valence scale. The hypothesis is that when the emotional content of the lyrics and melody is viewed as matching it will evoke a bigger pleasure response then when they mismatch. This will be research by participants listening to music while getting a fMRI scan, further the participants will also self-report on their emotional response. With the functional MRI it will eb possible to determine if there is an increase in blood oxygen level-dependent signal changes when comparing matched and mismatched emotional content in lyric and melody.