Dr Jason Braithwaite

Dr Jason Braithwaite studied for his first degree (Psychology, BSc Hons) at Lancaster University where he worked closely as a student and research assistant with the late Dr Ed Chronicle, a renowned expert on the pathophysiology of migraine and migraine aura. Dr Braithwaite went on to win a studentship to study for his PhD at the 5* School of psychology at the University of Birmingham. Here he examined inhibitory processes in visual selective attention and how they impact on failures of awareness / consciousness (inattentional-blindness), with Prof Glyn Humphreys. Following on from this, Dr Braithwaite then won three consecutive independent Research Fellowships from; (i) the ESRC; (ii) The British Academy; and (iii) an RCUK fellowship respectively, which allowed him to develop his expertise and establish his own independent laboratory (The Selective Attention and Awareness Laboratory) in the School of Psychology at the University of Birmingham. He is now a Senior Lecturer in Psychology and Brain science at the University.

Dr Braithwaite has an established background covering a variety of research areas including, visual search in static and dynamic environments, visual selective attention, perceptual grouping, short-term memory, working memory, top-down vs bottom up processes mediating attentional selection, inhibitory processes in selective attention, failures of attention and awareness, change-blindness, and inattentional-blindness. In addition, he also has a background researching perspective-taking mechanisms, anomalous bodily experiences (like the out-of-body experience and related experiences), sensed-presence hallucinations, cortical hyperexcitability and its association to anomalous perceptions, exploring susceptibility to the rubber-hand illusion in those prone to anomalous bodily experiences, neurocognitive correlates of anomalous experiences, disorders of embodied cognition, and biases in emotional processing underlying some anomalous aberrant experiences of the body and self.

Current and new projects include exploring such neurocognitive biases via a host of modern cognitive neuroscientific techniques including trans-cranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), trans-cranial direct current stimulation (tDCS), and the latest event-related psychophysiological methods, including facial Electromyography (fEMG); Electrodermal activity (EDA); and event-related skin-conductance responses (SCRs). Integrated brain-imaging (fMRI) and psychophysiological approaches are currently being developed and explored.