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Dr Suzanne Higgs

Reader in the Psychobiology of Appetite

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About

(/university/colleges/les/research-gallery/suzanne-higgs.aspx) I am a research psychologist interested in the study of motivated behaviours like eating and drug taking.

Qualifications

BA, MA (Oxon) PhD (Durham)

Biography

I have a degree in Psychology, Physiology and Philosophy from Oxford University. My PhD work was conducted at the University of Durham on the psychopharmacology of appetite under the supervision of Steve Cooper. I completed post doctoral work at Oxford University on the neural bases of learning and memory with Nicholas Rawlins and Susan Greenfield and was then appointed to a lectureship in psychology at the University of Birmingham. My current position is Reader in the Psychobiology of Appetite.

Teaching

I teach a level 3 module on the psychogy of eating and I am the Head of Education in Psychology

Postgraduate supervision

Current post graduate students:

- Jason Thomas
- Iraida Neira
- Angela Meadows
- Panagiota Kaisari
- Jinyu Lui

Research

ResearcherID: A-9632-2008 (http://www.researcherid.com.ezproxyd.bham.ac.uk/rid/A-9632-2008)

Research Group
Behavioural Neuroscience

Research Interests
I am interested in psychobiological influences on appetite, in particular the role of learning and memory in eating behaviour and drug taking and the potential role of these factors in the development of obesity and drug addiction. We ask questions about how memory for recently consumed foods affects decisions about future food intake and the factors that determine remembered liking for foods. We are also interested in social influences on eating. This work has been funded by the ESRC, BBSRC, Leverhulme Trust, MRC and Alcohol Education Research Council.

Other activities

Editor, Appetite

Member of Long Range Planning Committee for the Society for the Study of Ingestive Behaviour

Publications

From 2005 (full list available on request)

Thomas, J.M. Tomlinson, J.M. Hassan-Smith, Z. Dourish C. T. and Higgs, S. Effects of the 5-HT2C receptor agonist meta-chlorophenylpiperazine on appetite, food intake and emotional processing in healthy volunteers. In Press Psychopharmacology (IF 4)

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Higgs, S. Rutters, F. Thomas, J. Naish, K. & Humphreys, G.W. (2012). Attention to food stimuli is enhanced by processing of food in working memory. Appetite, 59, 71-75.

Finlayson, G. Cecil, J. Higgs, S. Hill, A and Hetherington, M.M. (2012). Susceptibility to weight gain: Eating behaviour traits and physical activity as predictors of weight gain during the first year of university. 58, 1091-1098.

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