



SCU, Coffs Harbour



Australasian
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I was awarded my PhD from UNSW (1993) and held two post-doctoral fellowships (Macquarie University, University of Montreal), before taking an academic position at the University of Newcastle in 1998. Currently, I am Associate Professor in Psychology and Director of the Functional Neuroimaging Lab at the University of Newcastle. I am also Deputy Director of the Priority Centre for Translational Neuroscience & Mental Health Research (PRC-TNMH) and Convenor of the Development, Ageing and Cognition Program of this PRC. Since its inception in 2012, I have been Treasurer of the Australasian Cognitive Neuroscience Society (ACNS). My research program focusses on the neural basis of cognitive control processes and their role in promoting adaptive behaviours and protecting against maladaptive behaviours throughout the lifespan. I have developed strong research collaborations with national and international researchers to enable new innovative approaches to address these questions, including RT distribution analyses, speed-accuracy tradeoff, single-trial ERP analyses, as well as structural, diffusion and functional MRI measures.



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Individual variability in cognitive control processes – does it translate to real life outcomes?

Cognitive control processes are crucial for goal-directed behaviour and decision-making across the entire lifespan. Like prefrontal brain networks, these processes show a 'last-in, first-out' pattern of development, maturing late and declining early across the lifespan. However, it remains to be established whether individual variability in cognitive control ability underlies variability in real-life adaptive/maladaptive outcomes. I will present work from our lab that has sought to establish lifespan variability in one aspect of cognitive control, the ability to flexibly adapt to rapid changes in task context, and examine whether individual variability in cognitive flexibility is related to variability in a range of age-appropriate outcome measures.