

Irene Perini

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Irene Perini is a neuropsychologist with a PhD in Medicine. She currently works as postdoc at the Centre for Social and Affective Neuroscience in Linköping, Sweden. Her research interests include social neuroscience and alcohol addiction. Her methods are psychophysics, functional magnetic resonance (fMRI) and transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS).

Education

2015 September – till present. Principal research engineer at CSAN, Linköping University, Sweden.
2014 March – till 2015 August. Postdoctoral researcher at the Dept. of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Linköping University, Sweden.
2010–2013. Ph.D. Medicine, Dept. Clinical Neurophysiology, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
2011 February – March. Research exchange program at BCN Neuro-Imaging Center University Medical Center, Groningen, Holland. Winner ERNI-HSF Exchange Grant.
2009–2010. Internship at the Dept. of Clinical Neurophysiology, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Göteborg, Sweden.
2006–2008. M.A. (with distinction) Neuropsychology, University of Bologna, Italy.
2003–2006. B.A. Psychology, University of Parma, Italy.

Publications

Zetterqvist M., Mayo L., **Perini I.**, Gustafsson P.A. *Nonsuicidal Self-Injury Disorder in Adolescents: Clinical Utility of the Diagnosis Using the Clinical Assessment of Nonsuicidal Self-Injury Disorder Index*. Front. Psychiatry. Provisionally accepted

Perini I., Kämpe R., Arlestig T., Karlsson H., Löfberg A., Pietrzak M., Zangen A., Heilig M. *Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Targeting the Insular Cortex for Reduction of Heavy Drinking in Treatment-Seeking Alcohol-Dependent Subjects: A Randomized Controlled Trial*. Neuropsychopharmacology. 2019

Perini I., Gustafsson P.A., Hamilton J.P., Kämpe R., Mayo L., Heilig M., Zetterqvist M. *Brain-based classification and negative social bias in female adolescents with nonsuicidal self-injury*. EClinicalMedicine, 2019

Perini I., Gustafsson P.A., Hamilton J.P., Kämpe R., Zetterqvist M., and Heilig M. *The salience of self, not social pain, is encoded by dorsal anterior cingulate and insula*. Sci Rep., 2018 Apr 18;8(1):6165.

Perini I., Tavakoli M., Marshall A., Minde J., Morrison I. *Rare human nerve growth factor beta (NGF) mutation reveals relationship between C afferent density and acute pain evaluation*. J Neurophy., 2016, 116(2), 425-430.

Cole J., Morrison I., **Perini I.**, Olausson H. *Insights from A-beta or C-Fibre Denervated Subjects*. In: Affective Touch and the Neurophysiology of CT afferents. Springer, 2016.

Perini I., Morrison, I., Olausson, H. *Seeking pleasant touch: neural correlates of behavioral preferences for skin stroking*. Front. Behav. Neurosci., 2015

Morrison, I., **Perini I.**, Dunham, J. *Facets and mechanisms of adaptive pain behavior: predictive regulation and action*. Front. Hum. Neurosci., 2013

Perini I., Bergstrand S, Morrison I. *Where pain meets action in the human brain*. J Neurosci. 2013

Morrison, I., Löken, L., Minde, J., Wessberg, J., Nennesmo, I., **Perini I.**, Olausson, H. *Reduced C afferent fiber density affects perceived pleasantness of touch and empathy for touch*. Brain, 2011.

Perini, I. *Small diameter cutaneous afferent stimulation and its effect on behavior in humans*. Doctoral Thesis.
<http://hdl.handle.net/2077/32955>

Grants

2019 – **Forsknings-ALF2020** LIO-888021 grant, co-applicant. “Early life trauma exposure as a risk factor for addictive disorders: A combined laboratory and registry study” – Granted 300000 SEK
2019 - Systembolagets Alkoholforskningsråd FO2019-0058 grant, co-applicant. Title: “Mekanismer bakom framgångsrik behandling av PTSD och alkoholberoende” – Granted 250000 SEK
2019 - Systembolagets Alkoholforskningsråd FO2019-0007 grant, co-appliant. – ”Childhood trauma exposure as a risk factor for alcohol use disorder” – Granted 350000 SEK
2019 - Svenska Läkaresällskapet SLS-891431 travel grant, main applicant. Title: “Social interaction processing in adolescents with non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) behavior” – Granted 10000 SEK
2018 – **Forsknings-ALF2019** LIO-791581 grant, co-applicant. Title: “Early life trauma exposure as a risk factor for addictive disorders: A combined laboratory and registry study” – Granted 700000 SEK
2018 - Systembolagets Alkoholforskningsråd FO2018-0081 grant, co-applicant. Title: “Mekanismer bakom framgångsrik behandling av PTSD och alkoholberoende” - Granted 200000 SEK
2018 - Systembolagets Alkoholforskningsråd FO2018-0030 grant, co-appliant. – ”Childhood trauma exposure as a risk factor for alcohol use disorder” – Granted 300000 SEK
2017 – **Forsknings-ALF2018** LIO-692621 grant, co-applicant. Title: “Early life trauma exposure as a risk factor for addictive disorders and other psychiatric disorders: A combined laboratory and registry study” – Granted 300000 SEK
2017 - Systembolagets Alkoholforskningsråd FO2017-0048 grant, co-applicant. Title: “Mekanismer bakom framgångsrik behandling av PTSD och alkoholberoende” – Granted 100000 SEK
2017 - Systembolagets Alkoholforskningsråd FO2017-0075 grant, co-appliant. – ”Childhood trauma exposure as a risk factor for alcohol use disorder” – Granted 300000 SEK
2016 - Systembolagets Alkoholforskningsråd FO2016-0018 grant, co-appliant. – ”Childhood trauma exposure as a risk factor for alcohol use disorder” – Granted 300000 SEK
2015 - Svenska Läkaresällskapet SLS-519401 travel grant, main applicant. Title “Neural correlates of behavioral responses to pain in nerve growth factor beta mutation carriers” - Granted 10000 SEK

Supervision

2016 October-now. Supervision of Doctoral student in Medicine.
2019 January-June. Supervision of two medical students (30hp research project). Title of projects: “*Perception and Cortical Processing of Light Touch by Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder.*” and “*Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) of the Insula for Treatment of Alcohol Addiction.*”
2018 September-December. Supervision of one medical student (30hp research project). Project title: “*The Effect of Early Life Trauma Exposure on Emotion Regulation.*”
2018 January-December. Supervision of medical students (second and third semester K3/K2; weekly group sessions).
2017 September-December. Supervision of medical students (second semester K2; weekly group sessions).
2017-2018. Supervision of Master’s student in Experimental and Medical Biosciences (30hp research project). Project title: “*The effects of alcohol on the perception of social stimuli and on risk-taking behavior.*”
2016-2017. Supervision of Master’s student in Experimental and Medical Biosciences (15hp research project). Project title: “*Social Salience: the effect of alcohol on Social Perception*”
2017 March-April. Supervision of visiting Erasmus student.
2016 September-June. Supervision of medical students (second semester K2 weekly group sessions).

Talks

-2019 December. Speaker at American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP), Orlando, Florida. Title of the talk: “Brain-Based Classification and Negative Social Bias in Adolescents With Nonsuicidal Self-Injury (NSSI) During Simulated Social Interaction”.
-2018 September. Speaker at International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA), Kyoto, Japan. Title of the talk: “Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) of the insula for treatment of alcohol addiction”.
-2018 April. Speaker at Lunchklubben, Norrköping, Sweden. Title of the talk: “Sociala medier påverkar hjärnan”. In

Swedish.

-2018 February. Speaker at International Symposium for Affective Touch in Children and Adolescents (ISATCA), Dresden, Germany. Title of the talk: "Cerebral correlates to affective touch processing in adolescents with Nonsuicidal Self-Injury (NSSI) behavior".

-2017 November. Speaker at Sverige Neuropsykologers Förenings Riksstämman (SNFS), Göteborg, Sweden. Title of the talk: "The salience of the self: neural correlates to social interaction in adolescents".

-2017 October. Speaker at Centre for Medical Image Science and Visualization (CMIV), Linköping, Sweden. Title of the talk: "The role of MRI in psychiatry".

-2017 September. Speaker at Svensk Sällskapet för Biologisk Psykiatri (SSBP), Uppsala, Sweden. Title of the talk: "The salience of the self: neural correlates to social interaction in adolescents".

-2017 May. Speaker at Siemens MR-användarmöte (SMUC), Linköping, Sweden. Title of the talk: "MR:s roll i psykiatri".

-2017 April. Speaker at Nova Utbildning, FoU & Affärsutveckling, Oskarshamn, Sweden. Title of the talk: "Hur fungerar en tonårings hjärna på nätet? ". In Swedish.

-2017 March. Speaker at Svenska Psykiatrikongressen, Göteborg, Sweden. Title of the talk: "Hur fungerar en tonårings hjärna på nätet? ". <http://www.svenskapsykiatrikongressen.se/filmer---fredag.html>.

-2016 October. Speaker at Populärvetenskapliga veckan, Linköping, Sweden. Title of the talk: "Hur fungerar en tonårings hjärna på nätet? ". In Swedish.

-2015 May. Speaker at the workshop "Living without pain" at Scuola Normale di Pisa, Italy. Title of the talk: "Human nerve growth factor mutation alters neural pathways for behavioral responses to acute pain".

-2014 November. Speaker at the Laureate Institute for Brain Research (LIBR), Tulsa, USA. Title of the talk: "Human nerve growth factor mutation alters neural pathways for behavioral responses to acute pain".

-2014 February. Speaker at "Human reasoning seminars" at the Department of Philosophy, Linguistic and Theory of Science, Gothenburg University. Title of the talk: "Acting on pain and pleasure: opposite directions of adaptive human behaviors".

-2012/2013 Spring terms. Guest lecturer for the "SSY185 – Diagnostic Imaging" course. Biomedical Engineering, MSc Programme. CHALMERS. Title of the talk: "Clinical fMRI".

-2012/2013 Spring terms. Assistant for the "Diffusion tensor imaging" lab. CHALMERS.

-2011-2013 Spring and fall terms. Assistant for the "Neurophysiology lab". Dept Physiology, Sahlgrenska Akademi.

-2012 May. Guest lecturer for the "KU711A - Methods in Cognitive Neuroscience" course. MA programme. Skövde University. Title of the talk: "Diffusion tensor imaging".

Conferences, courses and lab-visits

-2019 May. Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP) Conference. Poster: "Social interaction processing in adolescents with non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) behavior."

-2018 May. Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP) Conference. Poster: "Feeling rejected: Functional brain correlates of negative bias in non-suicidal self injury (NSSI)."

-2017 Jan. Course: "Problembaserat lärande och basgruppshandledning" 2hp.

-2017 March. Course: "Research Supervision – advanced course in higher education pedagogy" 4hp

-2016 November 12-16. SfN Conference. Poster: "Neural correlates of acceptance and rejection during online interaction in teenagers." (San Diego, USA).

-2016 November 11. S4SN Conference. Poster: "Neural correlates of acceptance and rejection during online interaction in teenagers." (San Diego, USA).

-2016 March 22-28. Lab visit for collaborative project at the University of Ben Gurion. (Beer Sheva, Israel).

-2016 June 14-18. HBM Conference. Poster: "Neural and behavioral correlates to pain perception in nerve growth factor beta (NGFB) mutation carriers". (Honolulu, Hawaii).

-2016 July 20-25. fMRI data collection at the University of Florida.(Gainesville, USA).

-2012 October 13-17. SfN Conference. Poster: "Effects of a human nerve growth factor beta (NGFB) mutation on cerebral structure and function in pain and touch". (New Orleans, USA).

-2012 October 8-9. Relationships in somatosensation and nociception. (The New Forest, UK).

-2012 April 9-13. Neuropathology practicum, Dartmouth Medical School. (Lebanon, NH, USA).

-2012 August 27-31. International Association for the Study of Pain Conference. Poster: "Behavioral, functional and structural changes for acute pain in thin fiber denervated patients". (Milan, Italy).

-2011 November 12-16. SfN Conference. Poster: "Acting on pain: thin fiber denervated patients are impaired in transforming pain into behavior". (Washington, USA).

-2011 September 5-10. Visceral Mind. (Bangor, UK).

-2011 June 26-30. HBM Conference. (Quebec city, Canada).

-2011 June 20-24. FSL & Freesurfer Course. (Quebec city, Canada).

-2010 November 13-17. SfN Conference. Poster: "Investigating the motor component of pain with fMRI". (San Diego, USA).

- 2010 April 29- May1. The insular cortex: current status of its anatomy and function. (Granada, Spain).
- 2010 May 31-June3. 5th MBIC fMRI School. (Maastricht, Holland).
- 2009 October 17-21. SfN Conference. Poster: "The relationship of pleasant touch pathways to reward processing: an fMRI study". (Chicago, USA).
- 2009 August 31 – September 4. Exploring Brain activation with BOLD imaging. (Copenhagen, Holland).
- 2009 March 30-31. Exploring White Matter with Diffusion-Tensor Imaging. (Bergen, Norway).

Software

AFNI, FSL, Brain Voyager, Presentation, SPSS, 3DSlicer, Office.

Languages

Italian: Native, English: Fluent, Swedish: Basic.

Media

Liu :<https://liu.se/artikel/sociala-medier-paverkar-hjarnan>

Svt: <https://www.svt.se/nyheter/lokalt/ost/bekraftelse-pa-natet>

Aftonbladet: <https://www.aftonbladet.se/lokala-nyheter/ngKdeo@ablokal>

Sveriges radio: <https://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=160&artikel=7264947>

Svd: <https://www.svd.se/kritik-overtolkas-av-tjejer-med-sjalvskadebeteende>

Svt öst: <https://www.svt.se/nyheter/lokalt/ost/hjarnans-biologi-paverkar-sjalvskadebeteende>