

OPEN SEMINAR SERIES

Monday 21 January 2013
12:30 – 13:30

SEERC Conference Room
3rd Floor Strategakis Bldg

“Cognitive Flexibility Across the Life-span”

By
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ABSTRACT

Cognitive flexibility (CF) is a complex executive skill that underpins our ability to engage in adaptable, goal-oriented behaviour. It is well established in the adult literature that CF depends on a number of different underlying processes. However, our understanding of the development of CF has been hindered by two problems: first, a lack of age-appropriate tasks that can measure CF at different stages of development; and second, the near-total separation of adult and child research. In this talk, I will present a series of experiments using a new measure of cognitive flexibility, the Switching, Inhibition and Flexibility Task (or SwIFT). This task explores the emergence of flexible cognition across the lifespan, from two years to adulthood. Unsurprisingly, a number of important developmental changes take place during the preschool and school years. However, these studies also reveal that there are striking similarities in the CF abilities of two-year-olds and adults.

The seminar series is open to all members of *staff* and *students* of CITY and to any *externals* that wish to attend.