When the executive gets drunk: Effects of alcohol intoxication on cognitive neurodynamics

Ksenija Marinković, Ph.D.

Psychology Department
Center for Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience
San Diego State University

Radiology Department
University of California, San Diego

With thanks to:

Supported by AA016624, MH101173
Multimodal imaging
“where” and “when” of cognitive functions
- Cognitive control
- Language
- Face perception

Autism spectrum disorder

Alcohol-induced impairments
- genetic markers
- family history
EXECUTIVE CONTROL

- plan, make decisions
- suppress automatic responses
- Use anatomically-constrained MEG
- Neural basis of cognitive control
- Acute intoxication
- Healthy social drinkers

Stroop task

Congruent GREEN
Incongruent BLUE
Anatomically-constrained MEG combines distributed source modeling with structural MRI.

Dale et al., 2000; Marinkovic, 2004
Group average: Theta during Stroop

- Anterior cingulate cortex subserves executive control
- Alcohol reduces conflict-related theta in ACC
Phase-Locking (Co-oscillations):

- Explore effects at the level of an interactive functional system

- Theta synchrony increased to conflict under placebo
- Alcohol disrupts co-oscillations
Alcohol-induced impairment of executive control:

- inappropriate decisions in conflict situations, social interactions, traffic
- may contribute to continued drinking
- Binge drinking
- dopamine genetic markers
- dispositional variables (impulsivity)
- family history
With thanks to:

Collaborators:
E. Artsy
S. Azma
A. Dale
E. Halgren
M. Hämäläinen
A. Irimia
S. Kovačević
R-A. Müller
M. Oscar-Berman
E. Rickenbacher
B. O. Rosen
A. Schulman
S. Sheldon
J. Sherfey
T. Wood

Supported by NIH

Current lab members:
Rifqi Affan
Audrey Andrews
Lauren Beaton
Tyler Brocklehurst
Stephen Cruz
Nicole Fong
Joe Happer
Lee Holcomb
Siyuan Huang
Laura Wagner