

Schneider, C., DeLuca, J. W., & Fisher, S. *Issues in the Development, Manifestation, and Treatment of Right Orbital Frontal Lobe Dysfunction*. Panel Presentation, International Society for the Study of Neuronal Regulation, 13th Annual Conference, Denver, CO, September 9, 2005

Introduction

The work of Allan Schore provides a clear and compelling example of the “context-dependent” development of the brain. Neither an abstraction, nor something growing in a vacuum, the brain is subject to pruning and enhancement based on an individual’s life experiences. For example, the development of the right orbital frontal cortex, responsible for emotional regulation, decision making and, at least in part, our sense of self, is highly dependent on “good enough” mothering and secure attachment. While the lack of the latter will set the stage for the very likely development of psychopathology, acquired brain injury and/or significant psychological trauma can also disrupt this critical developmental trajectory.

Method/Results/Conclusions

This panel will discuss the following:

Carol Schneider, Ph.D.:

Development: a thorough understanding of the pre-frontal systems of the brain and detailed examination of their sensitivity to environmental conditions and influences.

John W. DeLuca, Ph.D.:

Manifestation: examination of neuropsychological, QEEG and neuroimaging data in several case studies of individuals involving the right orbital frontal cortex and/or amygdala:

- (A) a 5-year old child with acquired brain injury (right orbital frontal fracture)
- (B) a 7-year old foreign adoptee with attachment disorder (bilateral amygdala hypo-metabolism)
- (C) a 14-year old boy with Borderline Personality Disorder (suspected right orbital frontal dysfunction based on Iowa Gambling Task results)
- (D) a Tibetan Buddhist monk meditating and generating the feeling state of compassion (activation of right orbital frontal systems)

Sebern Fisher, M.A.

Treatment: a review of treatment strategies for and case studies of individuals with such dysfunctions using FP02 neurofeedback.

References

- Schore, A. (2004). *Affect dysregulation and disorders of the self*. New York: W. W. Norton.
- Schore, A. (2004). *Affect regulation and the repair of the self*. New York: W. W. Norton.