



2nd JEAN PIAGET CONFERENCES

Infant development from Piaget to today

Geneva, Uni Mail, June 20-21, 2016

Monday afternoon, June 20, 2016

16h00

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Infant memory or Infant memories?

Abstract:

The contrast of early experiences being fundamental to a child's social, emotional and cognitive development and the fact that most adults report very few memories from before 2- or 3-years of age has created a massive literature. It has been suggested for a long time that only procedural memory was present during the first years of life. The neural network supporting explicit memory being immature the young infant may be unable to store "episodic" information in an accessible form. Twenty years ago, Nelson (1995) has proposed that, in primates, both memory systems are present at birth, although the declarative system may exist in an immature form, referred to as pre-declarative memory, due to the immaturity of cortical inputs to the hippocampus. I am going to review the literature and argue that childhood amnesia is a complex issue in which the development of several cognitive functions interfere with the brain maturity.