



Photo: Ioanna Berthoud Papandropoulou

Archives Jean Piaget | Séminaire interdisciplinaire | 2016

Emotion et Intelligence

Mardi 15 mars

Humor in Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder

par Andrea Samson, PhD, Centre Suisse des Sciences Affectives, Université de Genève



Andrea Samson received her Ph.D. from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland where she began to study humor appreciation in individuals with ASD. During her postdoc at Stanford University, she focused mainly on emotion regulation in ASD and is now implementing a positive emotion regulation intervention in individuals with ASD at the Swiss Center for Affective Sciences (University of Geneva, Switzerland) where she holds a senior researcher position (Ambizione Fellowship). Her research interests focus on affective processes in general and autism research with a particular focus on positive emotions.

Résumé de la conférence

Humor is a multi-faceted phenomenon that includes (but is not limited to) features, which render a stimulus potentially humorous, specific social, cognitive, and affective skills that enable individuals to appreciate humor, or an attitude towards life (i.e., to respond with humor towards adversity in life). In addition, humor plays a crucial role in our social lives by enabling communication in indirect and non-serious ways, or to foster close relationships and maintain hierarchies. Interestingly, Hans Asperger claimed that a typical characteristic of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is their lack of sense of humor. The present talk will challenge this claim by presenting several studies on humor in ASD taking into account disorder-specific deficits in relation to different types of humor and humor styles. Studying humor in ASD does not only help to shed more light on the disorder but also to better understand different components of humor in relation to social, cognitive, and affective skills.

Lecture proposée

Samson, A. C. (2013). Humor (lessness) elucidated - Sense of humor in individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders: review and Introduction. *Humor*, 26(3), 393-409.

