Unlocking the Muse: Epidemiological and Empirical Insights into Why Parkinson’s Disease Might, or Might Not, Lead to Changes in Creativity or Artistic Expression

Matthew Pelowski (University of Vienna, A)

October 28, 2021 / 18h, Salzburg (CEST)
Online Lecture
Participation free of charge
Unlocking the Muse: Epidemiological and Empirical Insights into Why Parkinson’s Disease Might, or Might Not, Lead to Changes in Creativity or Artistic Expression
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The lecture discusses some emerging preliminary results from a collaboration network of Neurologists, Psychologists, and Neuroscientists involving a compelling overlap between Parkinson’s disease (PD), its treatment, and a phenomenon whereby some individuals appear to show changes in their approach, or in their ability, with artistic or other creative pursuits (tentatively suggested to impact upwards of 20% of patients). Based on a review and synthesis of case evidence of PD-afflicted creators and artists, Matthew Pelowski suggests potential reasons for such changes — and thus perhaps for creativity itself — at the level of the brain, dopaminergic pathways, and pharmacology, as well as considering possible overlaps between creativity domains.

Matthew Pelowski is Ass. Prof. of Cognitive and Neuroaesthetics in the Faculty of Psychology, University of Vienna, and head of the ARTIS Lab (Art Research on Transformation of Individuals and Society).

The Salzburg lecture series MUSIK & MEDIZIN presents scientific and artistic contributions from leading international experts in various disciplines to explore the interactions and mechanisms between the experience, processing and psycho-physiological impact of music on humans and to understand how music may promote health and wellbeing. — The lecture is part of an interdisciplinary course where the referents discuss themes of their fields of research. — **Idea and Direction:** Katarzyna Grebosz-Haring (Systematic Musicologist | Programme Area (Inter)Mediation, Focus Area Science & Art | University Mozarteum Salzburg / Paris Lodron University Salzburg) — **In cooperation with** Günther Bernatzky (Biologist | Paris Lodron University Salzburg) and Leonhard Thun-Hohenstein (Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Paracelsus Medical Private University Salzburg) — **Contact and Information:** ingeborg.schrems@sbg.ac.at | Tel. +43 662 8044 2380

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