

Press release

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Basic information

Name: Stine Derdau Sørensen

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Department of: Clinical Medicine

Main supervisor: Professor Peter Vuust

Title of dissertation: How musical are children? A nationwide cross-sectional study of individual differences in musical competence and working memory in Danish school children

Date for defence: 29.10.2020 at (time of day): 14:00-16:00 Place: Online via Zoom platform

Press release (Danish)

Musikalske kompetencer og arbejdshukommelse hos danske børn og unge

Et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health, har i samarbejde med Det Jyske Musikkonservatorium undersøgt musikalske aktiviteter, musikalske kompetencer og arbejdshukommelse hos 17.270 danske børn og unge fra 5 til 20 år. Projektet er gennemført af Stine Derdau Sørensen, der forsvare det d. 29/10.

Der er en lang tradition for måle børns 'musikalitet', som oftest er baseret på den antagelse, at graden af medfødt musikalitet varierer fra barn til barn. Undersøgelser af individuelle forskelle i musikalsk kompetence - dvs. evnen til at opfatte, huske og skelne forskelle inden for korte melodier og rytmer - er i dag primært relevant for musikforskning. Bl.a. undersøger mange studier, hvordan musiktræning kan gavne børns udvikling og forbedre kognitive funktioner, f.eks. sprogtilegnelse eller arbejdshukommelsen. Sammenhængen mellem musiktræning og arbejdshukommelse er tidligere påvist hos både børn og voksne. Nærværende projekt undersøger sammenhængen mellem musikalske aktiviteter, musikalsk kompetence og arbejdshukommelse i et MasseEksperiment, som blev udført i forbindelse med Naturvidenskabsfestivalen, som arrangeres af Astra og løber af stablen hvert år i uge 39 for alle danske folkeskoler og ungdomsuddannelser. Herudover består projektet af udviklingen af en ny musikalsk test til børn.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 29/10 kl. 14 i online på Zoom. Titlen på projektet er "How musical are children? A nationwide cross-sectional study of individual differences in musical competence and working memory in Danish school children". Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Stine Derdau Sørensen, e-mail: stinederdau@clin.au.dk, tlf. 29 44 59 03.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

Professor Morten Storm Overgaard (formand)

Institut for Klinisk Medicin, Center of Functionally Integrative Neuroscience, Aarhus Universitet

Professor Frank Russo

Science of Music Auditory Research and Technology (SMART) Lab, Department of Psychology, Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Associate Professor Martin Nørgaard

School of Music, Georgia State University, Atlanta, USA

Press release (English)

Musical competences and working memory in Danish children

A new PhD project from Aarhus University, Health, in collaboration with the Royal Academy of Music, investigates musical activities, musical competence, and working memory in Danish school children from 5 to 20 years of age. The project was carried out by Stine Derdau Sørensen, who is defending her dissertation on 29/10

A long tradition exists of measuring the 'musicality' of children which is most often based on the assumption that degree of aptitude for music differ. Today, studies of the individual differences in musical competence - i.e. the ability to perceive, remember and discriminate subtle deviants in melodies and rhythms - are primarily relevant for research. For instance, numerous studies investigate how music training may benefit children's development and cognitive functions, such as language acquisition and working memory. The PhD project investigates the relationships between musical activities, musical competence and working memory in a mass experiment involving several Danish schools. Furthermore, the project involves the development of a new musical ear test for children.

The defence is public and takes place online on Zoom. The title of the project is "How musical are children? A nationwide cross-sectional study of individual differences in musical competence and working memory in Danish school children". For more information, please contact PhD student Stine Derdau Sørensen, email: stinederdau@clin.au.dk, Phone +45 29 44 59 03.

Assessment committee:

Professor Morten Storm Overgaard (chairman)

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