

Presented by:

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Questions?

Contact:
Marianne Arcangeli
ma84@cornell.edu

“Individual variation in functional brain networks in fetuses and children”

- Developmental Behavioral Neuroscience faculty
- [Department of Human Development](#)
- Center for Behavioral Economics and Decision Research
- Department of Psychology

Moriah E. Thomason

Assistant Professor
Wayne State University
School of Medicine

www.brainnexus.com



Increasing empirical support is amassing to demonstrate that disruptions in neural connectivity are underpinnings of many forms of psychopathology and neurological conditions. As the role of healthy neural connectivity comes into sharper focus, it is an optimal time to look at early development as a period before the emergence of clinical or pre-clinical symptoms to determine which differences may have constituted biomarkers of early vulnerability. In this talk, Dr. Thomason will describe three research studies carried out in her lab. The first examined the association between variability in cortisol responsivity following stress exposure and altered neural functional connectivity (FC) measured during resting-state fMRI in children and adolescents. The second looked at how participant anxiety levels during scanning altered connectivity in the brain's default mode network (DMN). Finally, she will show new pilot data in which she examines fetal FC in utero in preparation for linking fetal FC with outcome measures in a high-risk pregnancy cohort.



Cornell University
College of Human Ecology