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## Vortragseinladung

**Montag, den 03.07.2017, 14 ct****Thema: Do nimble hands really make for nimble minds? The contribution of fine motor skills to cognitive and lexical development****Ort: Universität Regensburg, VG 0.04 (Vielberth-Gebäude)****Referent: PD Dr. Sebastian Suggate, Fakultät für Psychologie, Pädagogik und Sportwissenschaft, Universität Regensburg**

Sebastian Suggate studied Psychology at the University of Otago (New Zealand), where he graduated with an honours degree and a PhD in Psychology, which received a distinction award from the University. After lecturing at Otago in the Department of Psychology on the development of brain and behavior, he immigrated to Germany where he was awarded an Alexander-von-Humboldt post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Würzburg, hosted by Prof. Wolfgang Schneider. Subsequently, he worked on his habilitation in the Department of Education at the University of Regensburg (Prof. Stoeger), as a professor of developmental psychology and early childhood education in Bonn (Alanus Hochschule), before returning to Regensburg in 2015 and receiving his habilitation. Dr. Suggate is best known internationally for his work on early reading and language development.

Alongside philosophers, linguists, cognitive and computer scientists, psychologists have been concerned with understanding the age old riddle of what role motor and sensorimotor influences play in human learning, development, and information processing. Recent work has suggested that children's fine motor skills (FMS), but not gross motor skills, correlate with and predict later development in a number of domains, namely cognitive, mathematical, decoding, and lexical development. However, establishing whether FMS are causally related to child development has proven difficult due to, firstly, methodological inadequacies in previous studies, and, secondly, a lack of compelling theoretical arguments to substantiate and guide empirical work. In the current talk, competing theoretical accounts are developed and evaluated, focusing on (a) maturation, (b) methodological artefacts, (c) functionalism, and (d) overlapping topographical functionality. Finally, a new theoretical account is presented, termed the Nimble-Hands, Nimble-Minds hypothesis, which proposes that fine motor networks and skills can be recruited to facilitate cognitive processing.