

## **Lecture by Dr. Julian Koenig**

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Heidelberg University, Germany / University of Bern, Switzerland

**Time: Friday, 9 November 2018, at 10:00-11:00**

**Venue: AAU, Fredrik Bajers Vej 7C, room 2-209**

### **Autonomic Nervous System Function in Pain Research: Historical Perspectives and Future Directions**

#### **Biography (basic research):**

Dr. Julian Koenig is the deputy head of research at the University Hospital of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in Heidelberg (Germany) and Bern (Switzerland). His research focusses on autonomic nervous system activity in the context of emotion dysregulation in psychiatric disorders. Previous studies addressed autonomic function in acute and chronic pain and he is involved in various experimental and clinical trials, trying to understand the neurobiological mechanisms underlying altered pain processing in non-suicidal self-injury. [ResearchGate] [PubMed]

#### **Abstract:**

The talk will cover basic aspects and challenges in measuring autonomic nervous system (ANS) function in pain research. Building on a brief history of ANS research in pain, fundamental concepts in quantifying ANS activity and function are addressed. The existing evidence on ANS reactivity to painful stimulation and ANS dysfunction in chronic pain conditions will be reviewed. Finally, recent approaches and experimental techniques in manipulating ANS function to alter pain experience are presented and directions for future research are discussed.

Yours sincerely,

Associate Professor Kristian Kjær Petersen, M.Sc., Ph.D.

Professor Thomas Graven-Nielsen, DMSc, PhD  
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