

EINLADUNG

zum Vortrag im Rahmen des Seminars des SFB/TRR 31

Freitag, 4. Dezember 2009, 14 Uhr c.t.

im Raum W2 1-143, Universität Oldenburg

und im Raum G26.1 – 010, Rechenzentrum der Universität Magdeburg (per Videoübertragung)

"Bistability of streaming/continuity illusion of tones"

Lars Riecke, PhD

Department of Cognitive Neuroscience Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience Maastricht University, NL

Constructive mechanisms in the auditory system may restore a sound when a gap in that sound is rendered inaudible by noise to yield a continuity illusion. In this talk, I will present results from studies that addressed these mechanisms in humans using psychoacoustics, fMRI, and EEG. The results indicate that (i) listeners' reports of tone and voice continuity illusions are reflected in decreased activity in the primary and non-primary auditory cortex respectively, and (ii) such suppressive effects may occur relatively early during gaps in illusorily filled tones.

I will argue that suppression of the encoding of sound edges in auditory cortex may determine the perceived continuity of sounds through noise. Such a mechanism could facilitate stable hearing of fragmented sounds in noisy environments.