



EINLADUNG

zum Vortrag im Rahmen des Seminars des SFB/TRR 31

Freitag, 28. Juni 2013, 14 Uhr c.t.

im Raum H28 / R 2.31 des Med. Campus Magdeburg
und Raum W2 1-143 der Universität Oldenburg,
(per Videoübertragung)

***"Intensity discrimination under non-simultaneous masking:
The role of selective attention"***

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When judging the intensity of target tones, non-simultaneous maskers can cause a dramatic impairment in performance that is difficult to explain by processes in the auditory periphery. We recently formulated a simple process model which assumes that non-simultaneous masking does not impair the representation of target intensity, but that this information is not used in an optimal fashion due to a difficulty in directing selective attention to the targets and ignoring the maskers. Results from several experiments supported this hypothesis. We found significantly smaller effects of masking on the difference limens in experimental conditions favoring the perceptual organization of targets and maskers as separate objects. In this case, according to the concept of object-based attention it should be easier to ignore the maskers and selectively attend to the targets. Using a newly developed data analysis technique of molecular psychophysics we were able to quantify the amount of attention directed to the maskers, and to estimate the increase in internal noise caused by them. Compatible with our model, we found clear evidence for suboptimal decision strategies but only a small increase in internal noise.