Brain-to-Brain Synchrony in the Classroom

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Abstract: We know very little about the brain mechanisms that support learning in real-world environments. The reason is that, traditionally, cognitive neuroscience studies examine one participant at a time in a controlled laboratory environment. My research utilizes portable electroencephalography (EEG) technology to measure the brain activity of multiple students in a classroom. This research suggests that brain-to-brain synchrony between students reflects their engagement level and their learning outcomes. I will also describe several new lines of research, where this work has been extended to learning in virtual environments and to parent-infant interactions. I will close with a discussion of how portable brain technologies can help bridge the gap between neuroscience and education.

Bio: Ido Davidesco, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Learning Sciences at the University of Connecticut's Neag School of Education. Dr. Davidesco is the recipient of the Next Generation Award from the Society for Neuroscience. He studies student engagement in face-to-face and virtual classrooms using portable Electroencephalography (EEG) and eye-tracking methods. Additionally, he studies how technology can enrich classroom-based research experiences for K-12 and university students.

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