



# UConn BIRC Speaker Series

Friday, December 10th from 1:30-2:45 pm ET

## Neural plasticity in developmental dyslexia

Jason Yeatman, PhD, Stanford University



**Abstract:** Literacy is at the foundation of academic success and children with reading disabilities face challenges throughout their schooling. Research on learning disabilities has led to the development of intervention programs to improve reading skills in young, struggling readers. However, two remaining concerns are: (1) the extent to which short-term intervention programs are capable of changing the developmental trajectory of the brain's reading circuitry; (2) whether individuals differ in terms of the underlying mechanisms causing their reading difficulties and, therefore, benefit from personalized intervention programs. Here I will present new data demonstrating that altering a child's educational environment through a targeted intervention program can dramatically change the structure of the brain's white matter connections, the function of relevant brain circuits and, ultimately, their reading skills. These findings underscore the brain's impressive capacity for plasticity when children are provided with intervention that is tailored to their needs.

***Bio:** Dr. Jason Yeatman is an Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Education and Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at Stanford University. Dr. Yeatman completed his PhD in Psychology at Stanford where he studied the neurobiology of literacy and developed new brain imaging methods for studying the relationship between brain plasticity and learning. After finishing his PhD, he took a faculty position at the University of Washington's Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences before returning to Stanford. As the director of the Brain Development and Education Lab, the goal of his research is to understand the mechanisms that underlie the process of learning to read, how these mechanisms differ in children with dyslexia, and to design literacy intervention programs that are effective across the wide spectrum of learning differences.*

Remote access Registration: <https://bit.ly/3wLtYNS>

\*Please note: You *must* register in advance via Zoom\*

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