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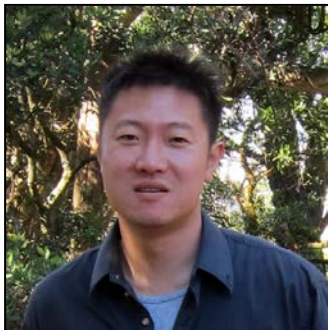
**Rose F. Kennedy Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC)**  
**Seminar Series**

Director: Steven U. Walkley, DVM., Ph.D.

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# Task-specific network-level representations of human vocal emotions



## Tong Sheng

*Doctoral Candidate, Brain and Creativity Institute, Neuroscience  
Graduate Program, University of Southern California*

**Van Etten (Room 1C-1):  
11:30am, Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

### ***Biographical note:***

Tong is currently a doctoral candidate in the Neuroscience Graduate Program and Brain and Creativity Institute at the University of Southern California, working under the mentorship of Dr. Lisa Aziz-Zadeh. He is interested in social cognitive neuroscience and has previously used functional neuroimaging to investigate the neural networks involved during action observation and prosody processing. More recently, Tong has taken network-level approaches to investigate auditory emotion processing and individual differences in social cognition.

### ***Abstract:***

The human voice is a rich medium for communicating intentions and emotional states. Human vocal emotions processing has been shown to involve a number of fundamental brain regions such as those associated with speech and emotion processing, but an understanding of the effects of task differences on network-level representation of human vocal emotions is lacking. In two separate fMRI experiments, we investigated 1) sensory and motor aspects of non-semantic prosody processing using multivariate pattern analysis and 2) task-dependent engagement of an orbitofrontal-amygdala network during perception of emotional human vocalizations. Together, the results of these studies illustrate the effects of subtle and not-so-subtle differences in task demands on neural network level representations of human vocal emotions.