Dealing with distractions: The development of inhibitory control

Improvements in inhibitory control, the suppression of impulsive or distracting thoughts and behaviours, play an important part in successful cognitive development. Inhibitory control has also been linked to development in a number of other domains including language, social processing and mathematical cognition. Some theoretical models propose a single inhibitory mechanism whereas others suggest that there may be multiple domain-specific inhibitory mechanisms that operate in parallel. In this talk I will present a number of studies that speak to this debate and discuss the implications for studying the role of inhibitory control in the development of other cognitive domains.