

Bristol Men in Early Years Network Meeting

16/01/2018

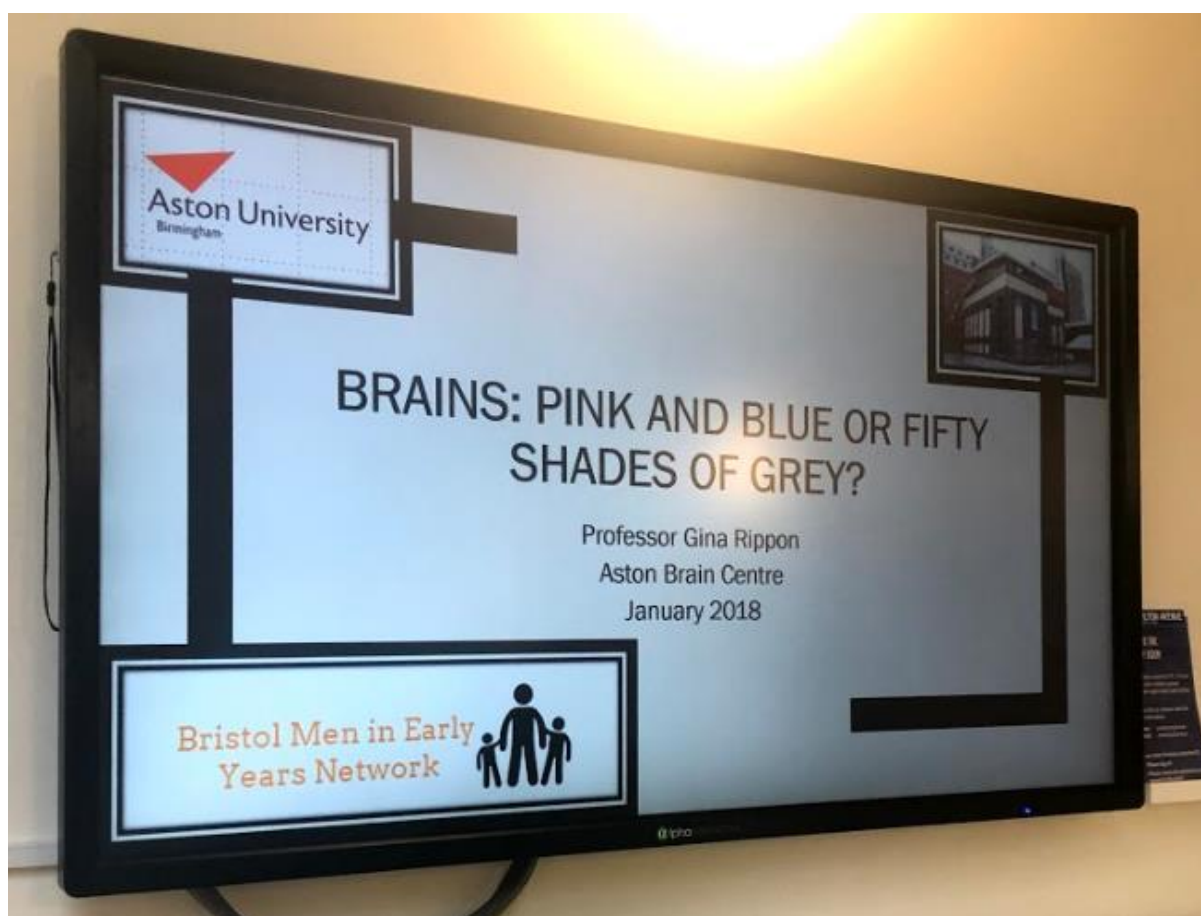
Guest Speaker: Professor Gina Rippon





Planned Agenda

Time	Item
2.30	Welcomes and introductions
2.45	Professor. Gina Rippon – ‘Brains – pink and blue or fifty shades of grey?’ With a background in psychology and physiology, she uses state-of-the-art brain imaging techniques to investigate the links between individual differences in brain activity and individual differences in behaviour. She also writes and speaks from a critical neuroscience perspective on the study of sex/gender differences in the brain. Her work in this area debunks the myth that there is intrinsic ‘essential’ difference between male and female brains and shows how the perpetuation of this myth is used to explain all kinds of gender gaps and gender inequalities.
3.45	Networking tea and coffee break
4.00	Q&A
4.15	Network updates
4.30 >	future meeting agendas and any other business



Report/Minutes

Prof. Gina Rippon delivered session – ‘Brains – pink and blue or fifty shades of grey?’ (paraphrased words of Dr Rippon)

- Discussed negative response from mainstream media regarding efforts to debunk the myth of a male and female brain
- Mentioned the *No More Boys and Girls: Can Our Kids Go Gender Free?* Experiment.
- Children feel parents wouldn't want them to play with certain toys due to gender discrepancy despite parents reporting to be more supportive.
- Children shown to respond to social stimulus as early as 3 months old *Just Babies: The origins of good and evil* - Paul Bloom
- Humans are great at following/seeking rules
- Experiments demonstrate how experience of negative stereotypes can impact brain activity
- Neuro plasticity through environmental means undermines biological pre-determinates (expressed through crude generalising: stereotyping)
- There is very little difference in terms of female vs male brains (weight being one of them); it is in fact environment (in this case focussing on social influence of gendering) that creates the sizeable divide we see between sexes, not biology.



Network Updates

- Keynote speakers are being finalised
- Reiterating that BMIEY is open to receiving suggestions to be forwarded to the Workforce Strategy

Meeting Ends