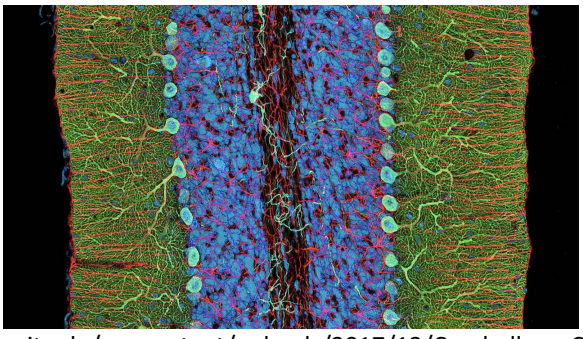
LLI Fall 2026
Human Impacts on Brain and Behavior
Environmental Neuroscience- An Emerging Field of Study

Fridays 3:20-4:35 PM Kenyon Hall Room 131
Prof. Kate Susman



https://biology.mit.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Cerebellum_Credit_NIH.jpeg

For the next four Fridays we will delve into the newest subfield in neuroscience: Environmental Neuroscience. Humans and all other animals (indeed, all living things) are faced with incredible challenges as we live in a world changing rapidly in response to the many impacts we humans are having on planet Earth. From warming temperatures and extreme weather, to noise and night light pollution, to a massive arsenal of environmental chemicals. We will delve into these issues and seek insights into how animals (including us) are affected and are changing and adapting in response. It turns out that our sensory systems are on the frontlines of these attacks on Earth, and for us animals, a crucial part of our ability to adapt.

Calendar of topics for discussion

Date	Topic	Preparatory Sources
Oct 23	Introduction to Plasticity and Capacity for Change; Neurobiology and Changing Ecosystems in the Anthropocene	Not good news: https://youtu.be/5tgNtIUOL4E https://youtu.be/LnpEiDq4HBE https://youtu.be/2HUor5EOFeI https://youtu.be/OvwwVJ21rvo
Oct. 30	Chemical Pollution- Time of Exposure and Amount	https://youtu.be/bcri2GbZx_M; https://youtu.be/t8qGtEVh7oQ; https://youtu.be/I7GFtuAtobY

		• https://youtu.be/_TIvi6B61l0?si=kVeerRuWF8Rnss4E • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMW_GSWHv5g
Nov. 6	Artificial Light at Night; Noise	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InUPnPR1fTI https://youtu.be/i9qMbTba6qk https://youtu.be/E9YqjfMyS8I https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/06/09/health/noise-exposure-health-impacts.html?unlocked_article_code=_FiA8fTChOW1hcTuG2pucYRozWFP0qCMrCu7V-_1Fpi-iSHXmZL7k4vmGLKlJHZdCQDV_9rib3HAg3E9KvXbaWuZad9zeosChu3bqq9TUTDWBVZitrofAlFVPJazvArJ9U_pmOlDJpTbeqyzU9Awmqni2Po7l7aHK3dtb7f3IhHryElYWzuiTmLZ2Qw9NJQVN-foS5norETuSWKiXCXuFLD_Zc4Zlzv4Wlwumbnuk8dYruQST_wT0P0860Ak3YMVtvkQJi87TTi3U5qVfR4ZlZrENZ11jaQbUcl52tY_xrE7lS00IN2K2CIigwC0MPkA9VGXPKKQPzNJkKsoKPYOp6KAO0C-Hq9Zzd6nElhMqDMdFPpIc0g&smid=url-share https://darksky.org/news/state-of-the-science-2026/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRuLSFmBIFs
Nov. 13	Wildfires, Extreme Heat, Urbanization	https://time.com/6280073/how-heatwaves-impact-your-brain/ https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/21/science/birds-cities-redlining.html?unlocked_article_code=1.CE0.M2sh.UWv6X013uQud&smid=url-share