

**Vortrag am: 27.10.2004**

**Vortragender: Daniel Brandeis, Universität Zürich**

**Thema: The development of neural specialisation for visual word processing**

Reading activates fast visual brain processes specialized for print. In adults, the print-sensitive occipito-temporal N1 activity of the event-related potential (ERP) offers a direct measure of this neural specialisation at about 150ms. Learning to read must involve plastic reorganisation of the visual system to achieve such specialisation for print. We recently demonstrated that the N1 sensitivity for words over symbol strings is absent in children who can not read words despite some letter knowledge (Maurer et al submitted). The results from a longitudinal follow up in 2nd grade demonstrate how this fast neural specialization for print emerges with learning to read.