



## The Jacobs Center's Series on Social Science and Genetics

**Prof. Dr. Robert Kumsta**

*Faculty of Psychology Genetic Psychology Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany*

### ***Biological Embedding of Experience: Gene Expression Profiles and DNA Methylation in the Context of Stress and Trauma***

Exposure to serious or traumatic life events in childhood is a well-established major risk factor for developing mental health problems in adulthood. These observations raised the question of how the long-lasting health consequences of early adverse rearing conditions are sustained, or “biologically embedded”. Recent research findings suggest that epigenetic mechanisms might play an important role.

My talk will deal with the long-term consequences of institutional deprivation experienced by Romanian children growing up in institutions of the Ceausescu regime, and the associated changes in DNA methylation patterns. Furthermore, I will present data on genome-wide mRNA expression in the context of acute stress, showing that a history of childhood adversity is associated with altered gene expression profiles following stress exposure.

**Thursday, Nov 24, 2016, 14:00 – 15:15 h**

**At the Jacobs Center for Productive Youth Development  
Andreasstrasse 15, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, AND 4.19, 8050 Zürich**

**Individual meetings with Prof. R. Kumsta are available  
If interested please contact Maria Schönholzer  
[maria.schoenholzer@jacobscenter.uzh.ch](mailto:maria.schoenholzer@jacobscenter.uzh.ch)**



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