



UNIVERSITY OF  
**South Carolina**

Institute for Mind and Brain Colloquium Series  
Invited Speaker



**Dr. Jessica Bradshaw**  
Assistant Professor

**Early Social Development and Intervention Lab**  
**Institute for Mind and Brain**  
**University of South Carolina**

***“Mapping Infant Experience: Physiology, Attention,  
and Movement as Predictors of Social Engagement”***

**Abstract:** Sophisticated and fluent social-communication skills emerge in the context of rich social interactions, which begin at birth and are facilitated by a set of requisite hierarchically organized behaviors, collectively called neonatal neurobehavior. Using behavioral and physiological methods, my research characterizes infant responsivity and adaption to the environment during a critical period of neurodevelopment, from birth to 6 months. In this talk, I will present an accumulating body of evidence that coordinated neurological, physiological, and behavioral organization in the early infant period leads to sustained engagement in contingent, active, social interactions with a caregiver. These early successful interactions lay an important foundation for later language development and social learning and have significant implications for understanding mechanisms in the emergence of autism spectrum disorder. Opportunities for translation of findings to early behavioral interventions will be discussed.

**April 6, 2021 @ 3:30pm – 5:00pm**

**Institute for Mind and Brain Sponsored Zoom Meeting:**

**<https://zoom.us/j/94048741224>**

**Meeting ID: 940 4874 1224**