**Biographical Information**

Dr. Kevin Pelphrey is the Harris Associate Professor of Psychology at the Yale Child Study Center. He completed his doctoral studies in Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his postdoctoral training in Cognitive Neuroscience at Duke University. Dr. Pelphrey's research addresses fundamental questions regarding the typical and atypical development of brain mechanisms for social cognition in children with and without autism spectrum disorders. This work employs multiple methods including functional and structural magnetic resonance imaging, diffusion tensor imaging, imaging genetics, and eye tracking. By studying the ontogeny of the brain mechanisms underlying social cognition in children with and without autism, Dr. Pelphrey seeks to understand the causes of autism and thereby improve the diagnosis and treatment of this and related developmental disorders. Dr. Pelphrey has received a Scientist Career Development Award from the National Institutes of Health, a John Merck Scholars Award for his work on the biology of developmental disorders, and the American Psychological Association's Boyd McCandless Award for distinguished early career theoretical contributions to Developmental Psychology. His research program is funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Simons Foundation, Autism Speaks, and the National Science Foundation.

**Presentation Abstract (4:30 pm)**

*Neural Signatures of Atypical Brain Development in Autism*

Humans are intensely social beings that have evolved and developed within highly social environments in which each individual is dependent upon others. We constantly engage in social perception, using cues from facial expressions, gaze shifts, and body movements, to infer the intentions of others and plan our own actions accordingly. My laboratory has been investigating the properties of specialized brain systems that are important for social perception using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), eye tracking, and molecular genetics in typically developing adults and children, as well as in children and adults with autism, a neurodevelopmental disorder marked by severe dysfunction in aspects of social perception. In this talk, I will describe these studies in three main parts: First, I will describe our work using fMRI to identify the basic brain mechanisms for social perception in typically developing individuals. Second, I will discuss our studies of the neural basis of social perception deficits in adults with autism. Finally, I will describe our most recent efforts to chart the typical and atypical development of brain mechanisms for social perception in children with and without autism, as well as in unaffected siblings of children with autism.