

Cognitive Science Colloquium  
Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 12pm  
Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences, Room 205

**Life Slows Down When You Have More Neurons**  
**Suzana Herculano-Houzel (Vanderbilt University)**



Sure, having more neurons in the cerebral cortex must make it capable of more complex and flexible cognition, so our sixteen billion cortical neurons place humans at a clear cognitive advantage over all other animals. But in this talk I'll argue that the most consequential effect of having so many neurons is something else: more time to mature and then to live once independence is reached. With more cortical neurons comes more time to gather information, build knowledge, and exchange it with past and future generations – hand in hand, of course, with the increased computational capacity that makes it all possible.