



UNIVERSITÀ
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PHD School
in **LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

PhD Program in Neuroscience, Psychological and
Psychiatric Sciences, and Movement Sciences

TOP SCIENCE



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“The Numbersense”

**November 21, 2017, 3:00 pm
Aula A Istituti Biologici**

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Humans and many other animals can estimate rapidly and reasonably accurately the number of items in the scene. Neurophysiological studies on human and non-human primates point to the existence of a dedicated numbersense, served by specialized neural mechanisms in parietal and prefrontal cortex. Over a wide range of conditions, humans discriminate number spontaneously and directly, unconfounded by related attributes such as texture-density. Like other sensory attributes, the numbersense is selectively adaptable, suggesting that the sense of number is a perceptual quale, that encodes the numerosity of items in space and time, in all sensory modalities.

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