# The Neural Basis of Dance Movement and Partnering

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What was wrong with this ad?

InappropriateRepetitive

Irrelevant

#### Is Dance "The Next Wave" in Cognitive Neuroscience?

Dancing stimulates the brain in interesting ways.

Post published by A Guest Blogger on Nov 23, 2011 in The Guest Room





By Steven Brown, Ph.D.

In the last 10 years, music's status within cognitive neuroscience has moved from being a fringe area to a topic of central interest to neuroscientists. Dance seems poised to be "the next wave" in cognitive neuroscience. And, in fact, dance takes advantage of many of the strides made by music research and combines them with notions of motor control and sensorimotor coupling that have already attracted great interest in neuroscience.

# The Neurocognition of Dance

Mind, Movement and Motor Skills

edited by Bettina Bläsing, Martin Puttke and Thomas Schack

# The 4 P's of Dance

Pattern

Partnering

Pacing

Person



Cerebral Cortex August 2006;16:1157-1167 doi:10.1093/cercor/bhj057 Advance Access publication October 12, 2005

#### The Neural Basis of Human Dance

Steven Brown<sup>1,2</sup>, Michael J. Martinez<sup>1</sup> and Lawrence M. Parsons<sup>1,3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Present address: Department of Psychology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada
<sup>3</sup>Present address: Department of Psychology, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK 1) spatial patterning of movement

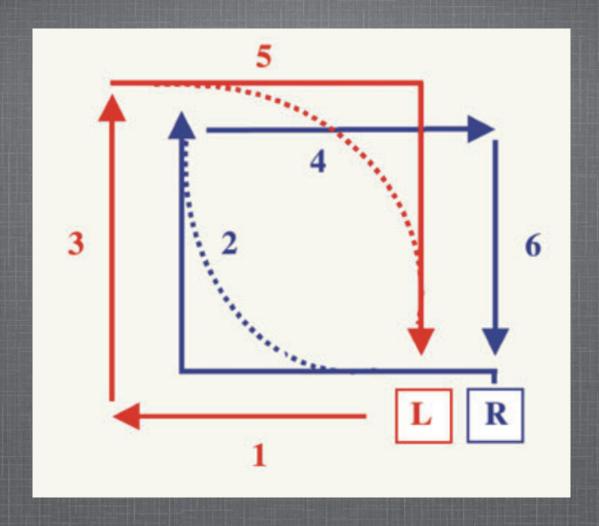
2) meter = rhythmicity

3) entrainment (synchronization)

# Subjects

amateur tango dancers

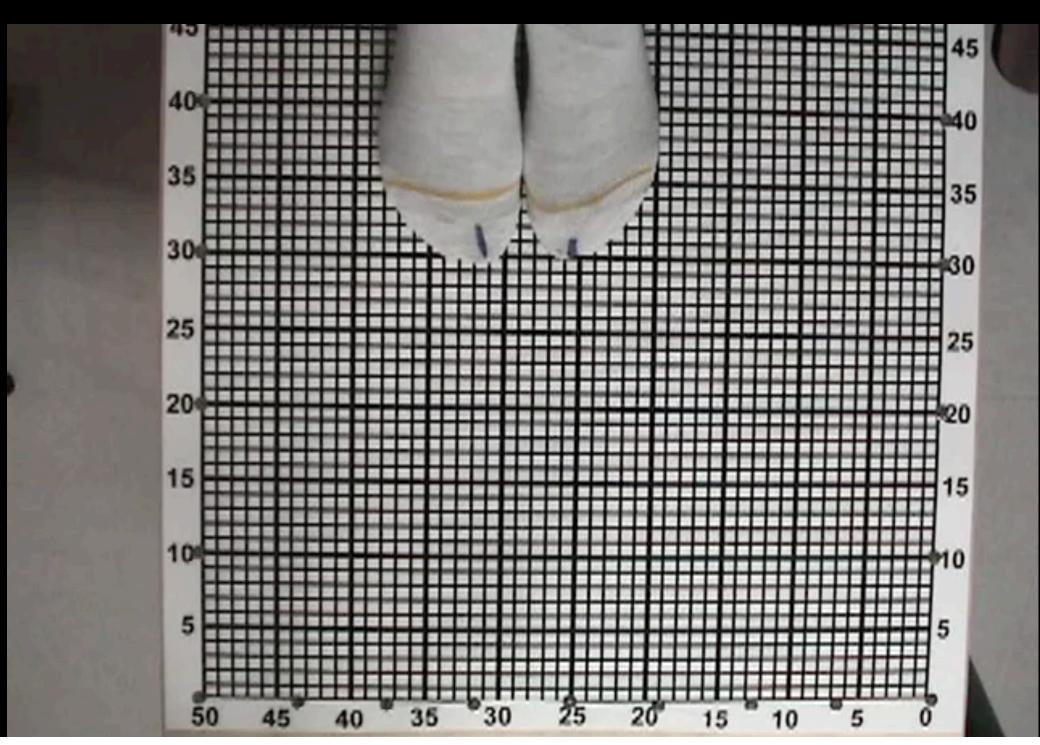
• minimal musical experience



The step was taught in advance of the PET scan. No learning occurred during scanning session. Eyes were closed in all scans.



#### Dance condition

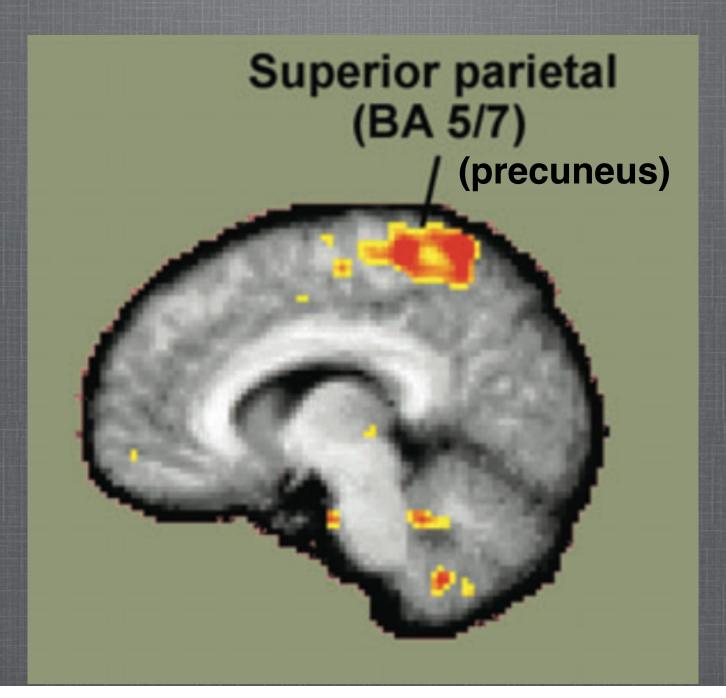


# I. Spatial Patterning of Movement

Dance vs. Contractions alone

muscle contractions but no movement

# Dance - Contractions

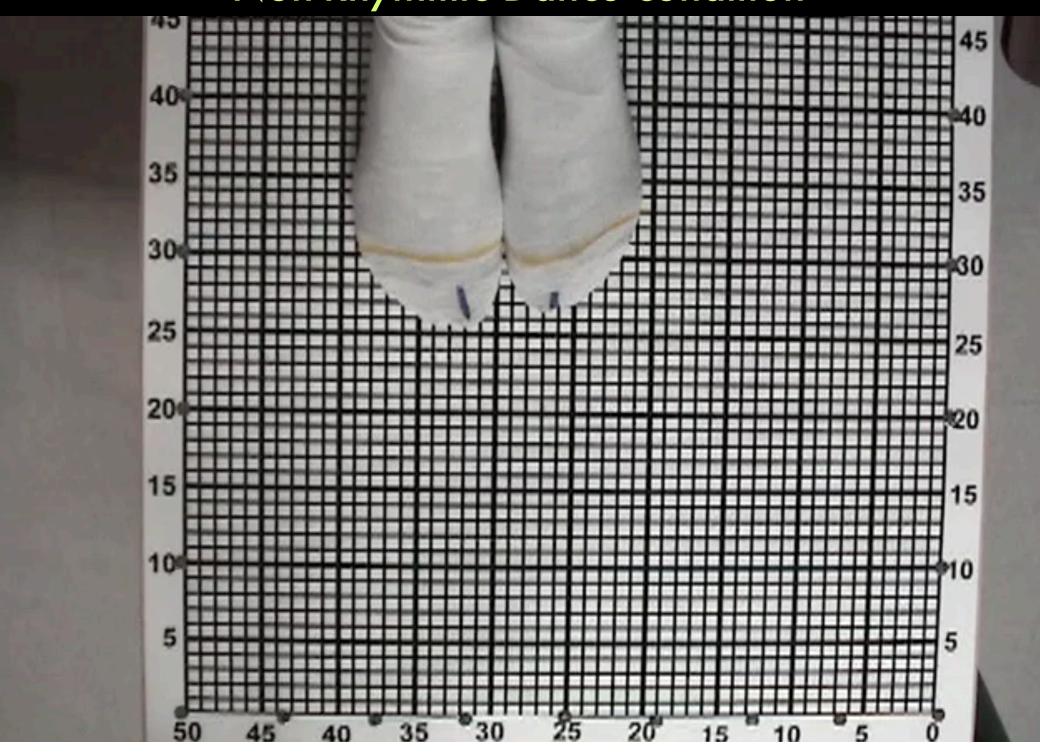


### II. Meter

Dance vs. Non-Rhythmic Dance

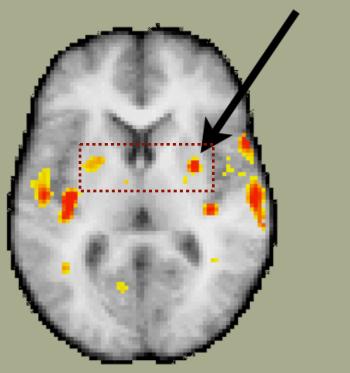
regular and predictable irregular and unpredictable

#### Non-Rhythmic Dance condition

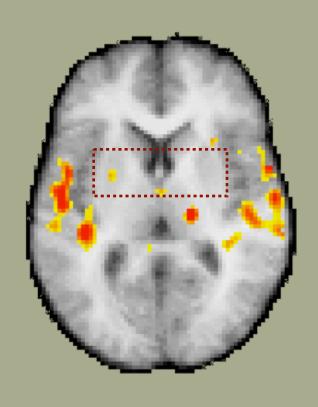


#### **Rhythmic Dance**

#### **Putamen**



#### Non-Rhythmic Dance



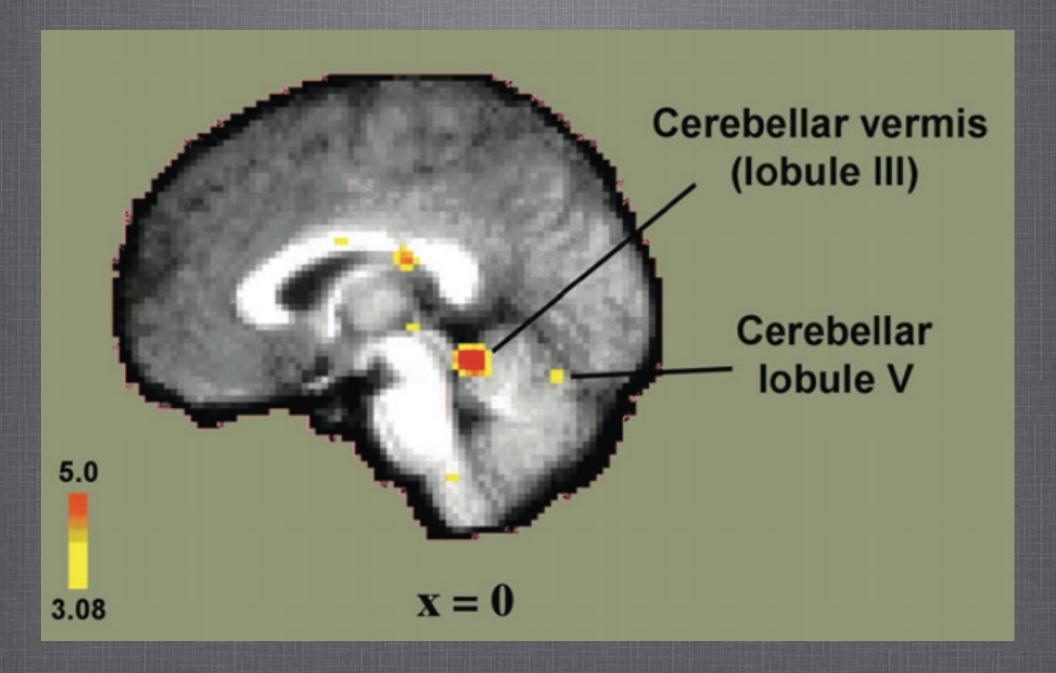
#### III. Entrainment

Dance vs. Self-Paced Dance

externally-paced (= entrained)

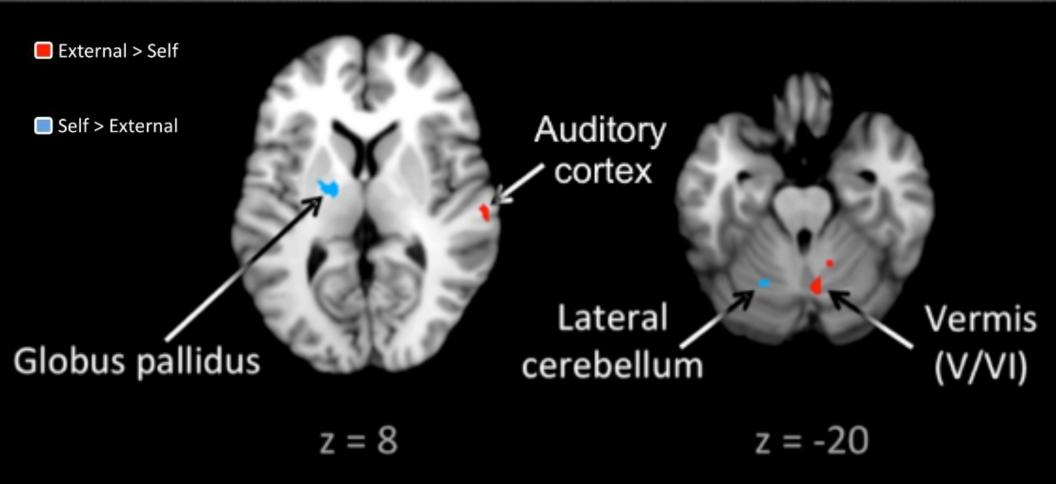
self-paced (no entrainment)

# Dance - Self-Paced



# Meta-analysis of finger-tapping

(43 published studies)



Chauvigné L., Gitau K., Brown S. (2014). Frontiers in Human Neuroscience.

# Summary

1) spatial patterning of movement superior parietal (precuneus)

2) meter = rhythmicity
putamen (basal ganglia)

3) entrainment vermis of cerebellum





Leading: goal-directed movement planning of movements navigation transmission of force to partner

Following: stimulus-directed movement receptivity to signals from leader

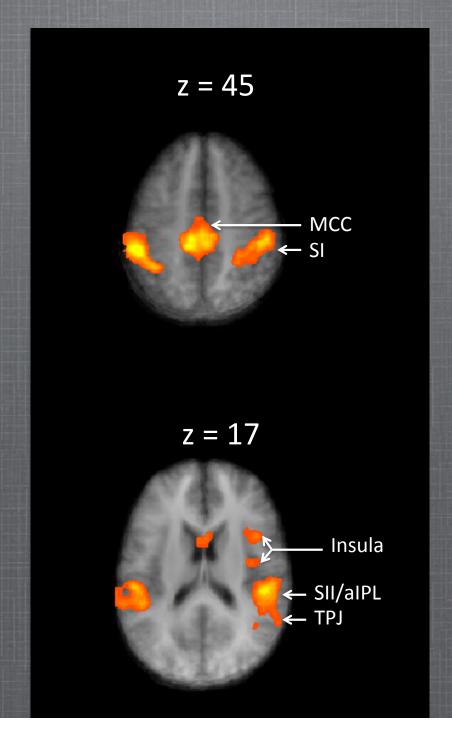
# But how can we study partnering in an MRI scanner?

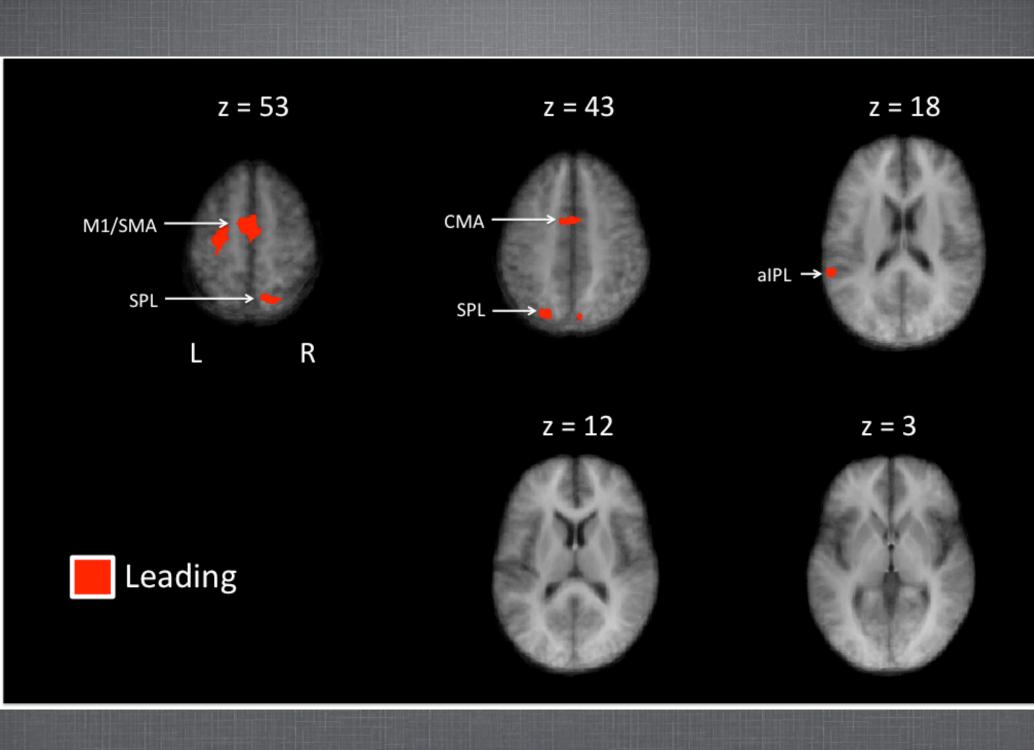


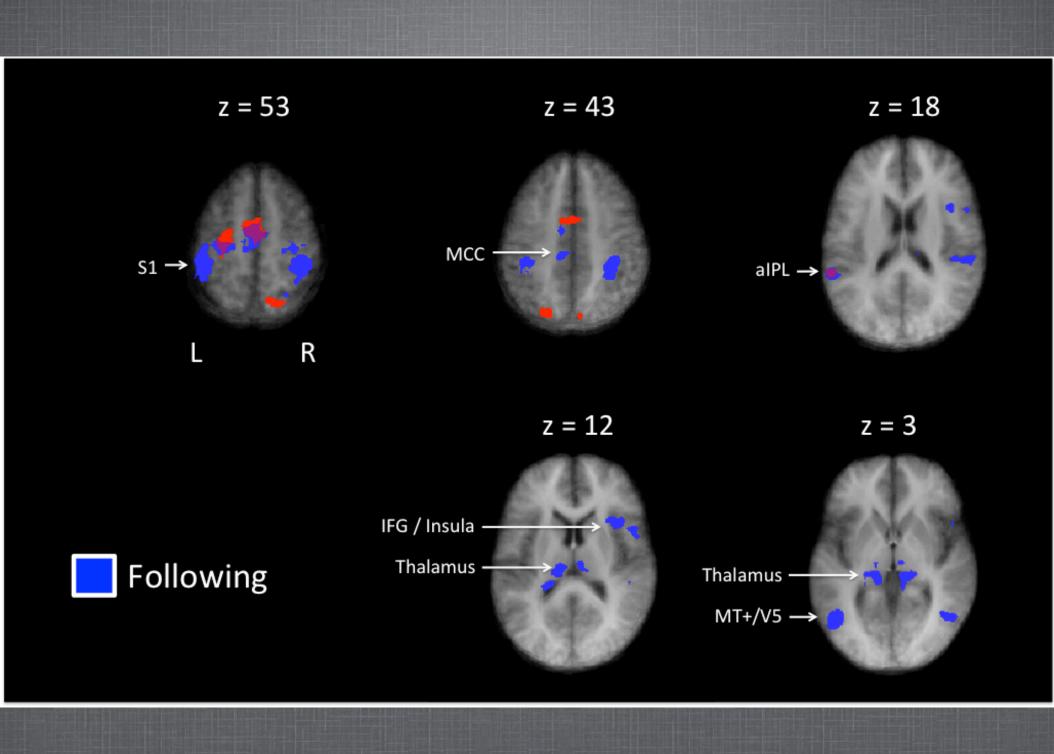
# Conditions

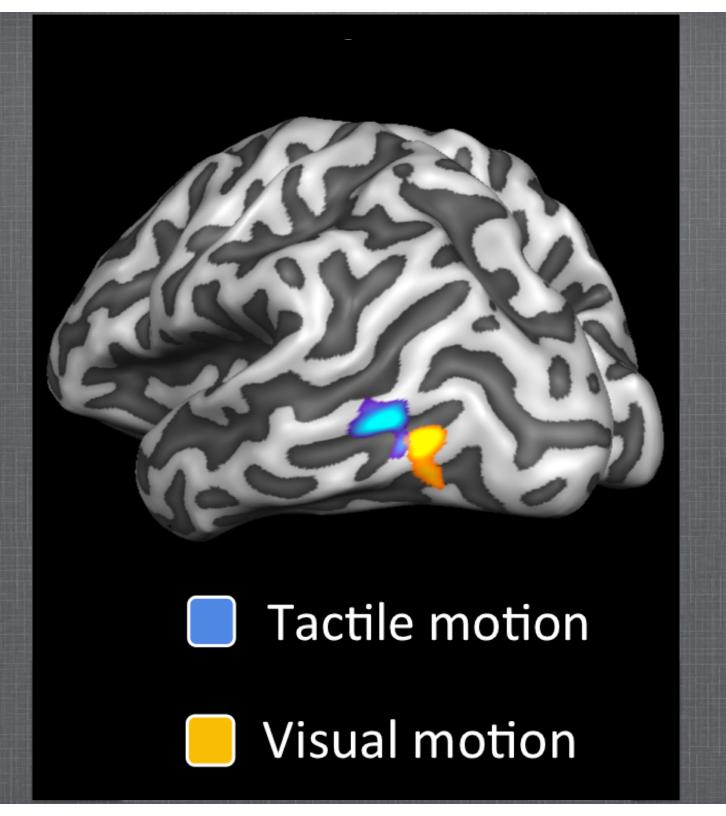
- partnering: Leading (improv)
- partnering: Following (improv)
- partnering: Mutual (pre-learned)
- solo (improv)
- solo (pre-learned)

# Partnered > Solo

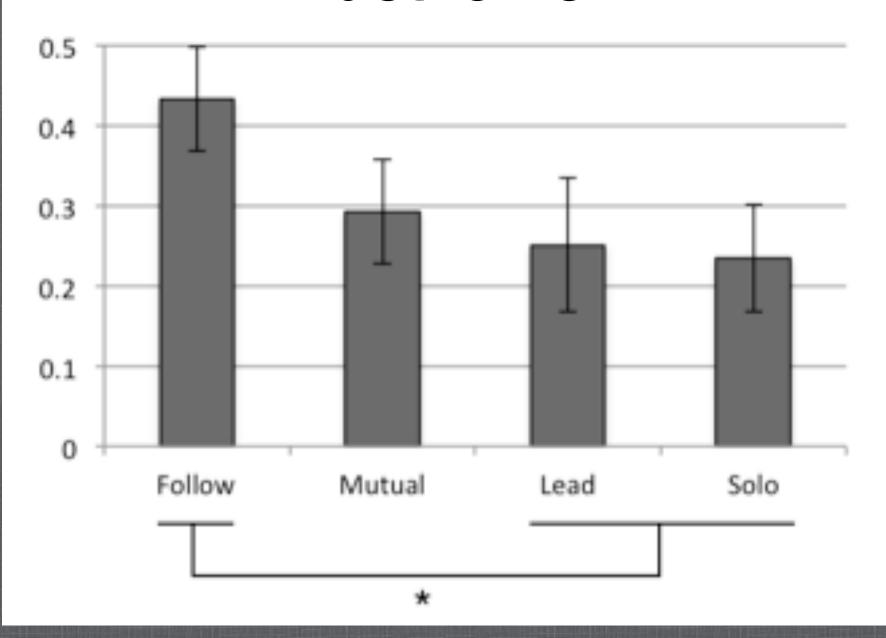




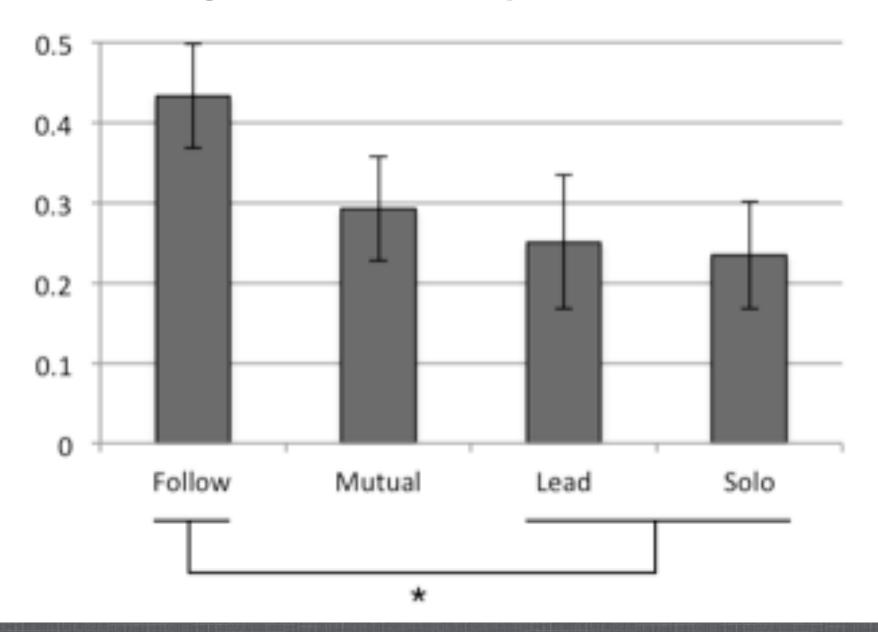


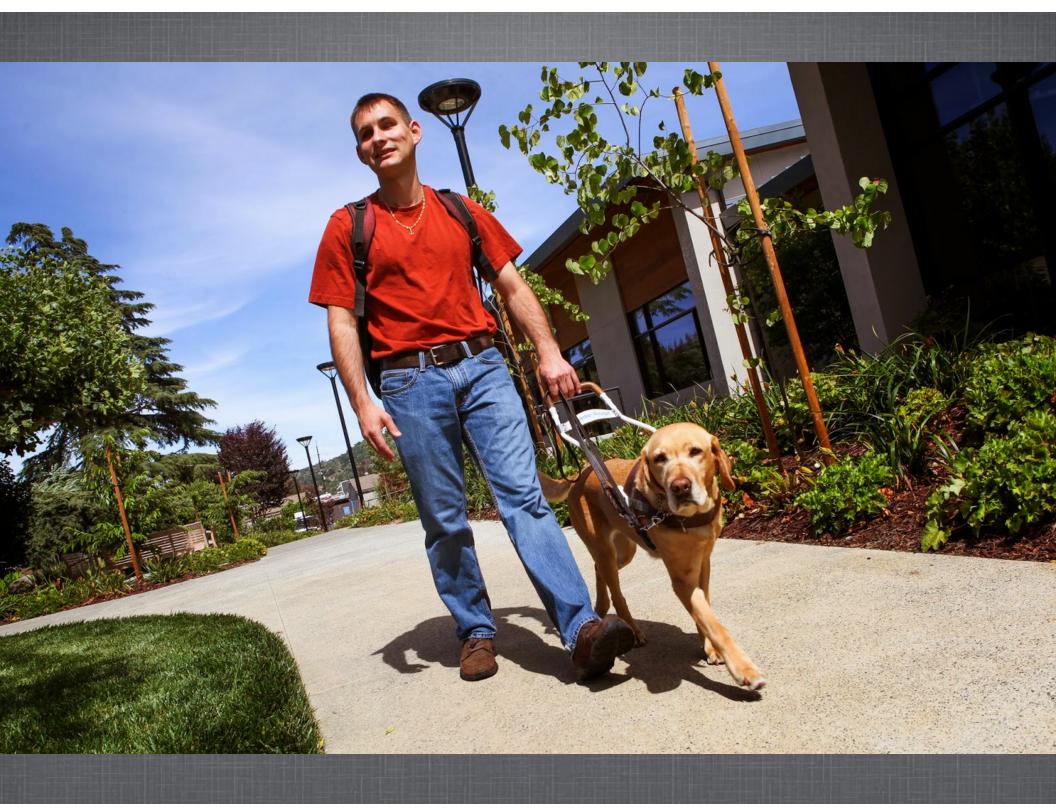


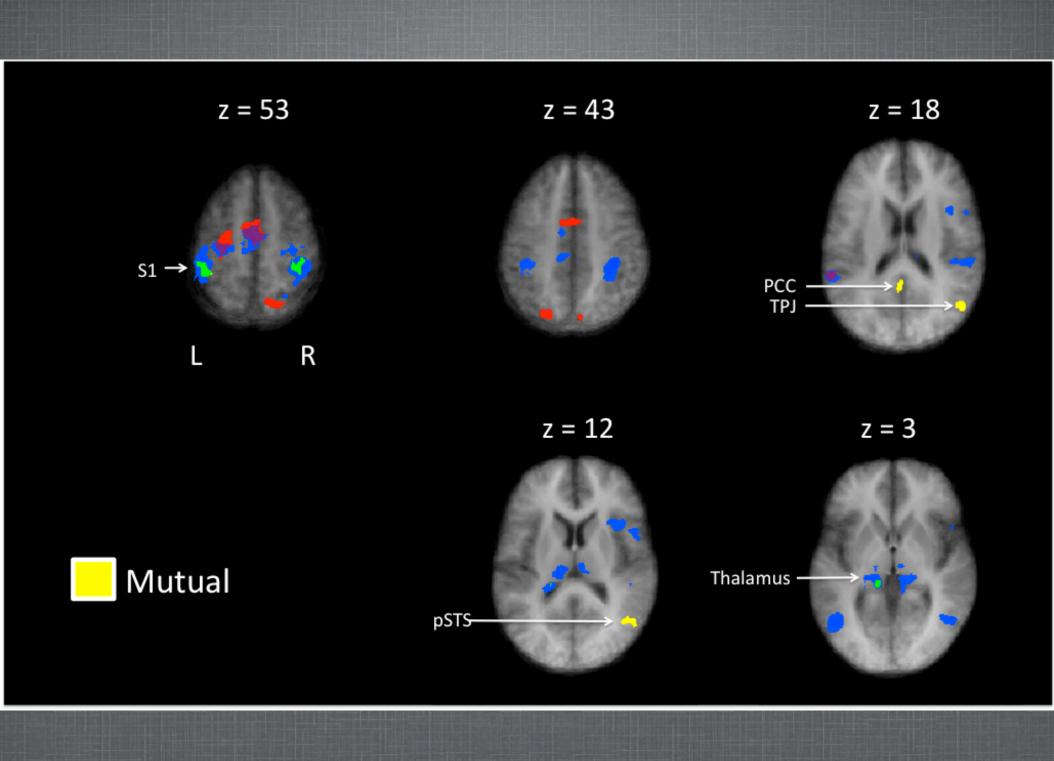
#### **Tactile V5**



# Being moved by someone







# Partnering

- 1) leading motor planning, navigation
- 2) following somatosensory areas, tactile V5
- 3) mutual mentalizing areas (cooperation)

# The 4 P's of Dance

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