

COLORADO

CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2009

at the Wynkoop Brewing Company

<http://www.wynkoop.com/>

Corner of 18th and Wynkoop in LoDo, Denver

About a block from Light Rail. Thirteen minutes by foot from Auraria.

ARE ADOLESCENTS LESS MATURE THAN ADULTS?

Cognitive Ability vs. Psychosocial Development

Marie Banich, PhD, Professor of Psychology, and Director of the Institute of Cognitive Science, University of Colorado, Boulder.

Dr. Banich's interests include: the theoretical basis for cognitive control and executive function, and the implications of that control for normal and pathological emotions; the development of cognitive control and executive function; and information processing between the hemispheres of the brain. Recently she co-authored with several American Psychological Association experts a fascinating review that addresses a question that can be stated bluntly: Why were 16 year old girls considered too immature to request an abortion without parental permission (*Hodgson v. Minnesota, 1990*), but 16 year old boys were mature enough to be executed for capital crimes (*Roper v. Simmons, 2005*)? The APA had authored briefs in these cases to the Supreme Court leading to accusations of inconsistency, even of liberal bias. But Dr. Banich's reasoned discussion makes it clear that cognitive and psychosocial maturity are different things, developing at different rates, and paramount under differing circumstances. The implications of these studies for all of society are enormous. New techniques are allowing psychologists to peer closely into the brains of functioning humans, normal and abnormal, and see differences in processing which might translate to new and enlightened attitudes and treatments.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. The discussion starts at 6:30 in the Mercantile Room (no food service there). Come before 6 PM to leave yourself time to get something to eat, or stay and eat afterwards. We end around 8 PM.

There's no charge. The Wynkoop is generously providing the facility; we buy our own drinks. It is first come, first seated, and **seating is limited** so that everyone can take part in the discussion.

The Colorado Café Scientifique is organized by an informal group of faculty from CU and institutions up and down the Front Range, as well as science fans from industry, government and elsewhere. We welcome your input, including ideas for speakers and topics. Bring them with you to the next Café, or e-mail them and any questions to John.Cohen@UCDenver.edu

Essential information on our Web site at <http://CafeSciColorado.org>