

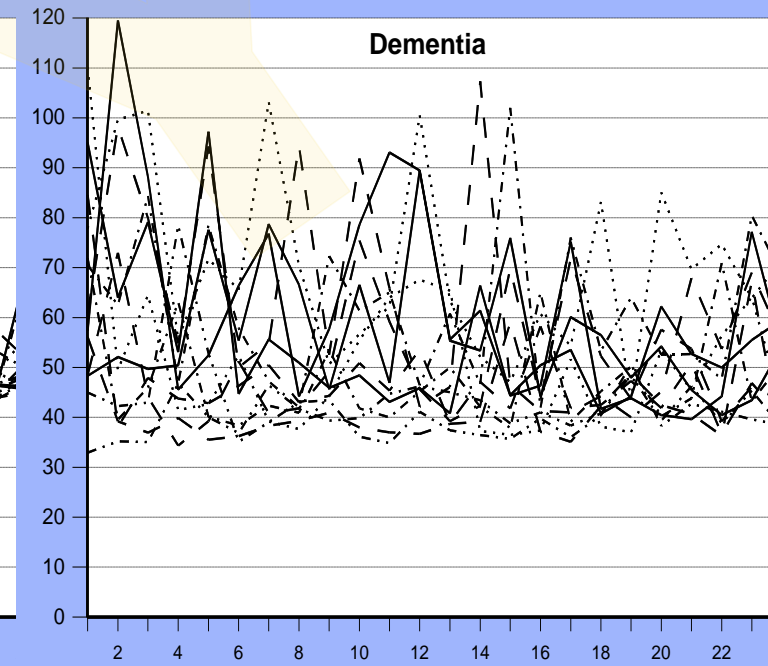
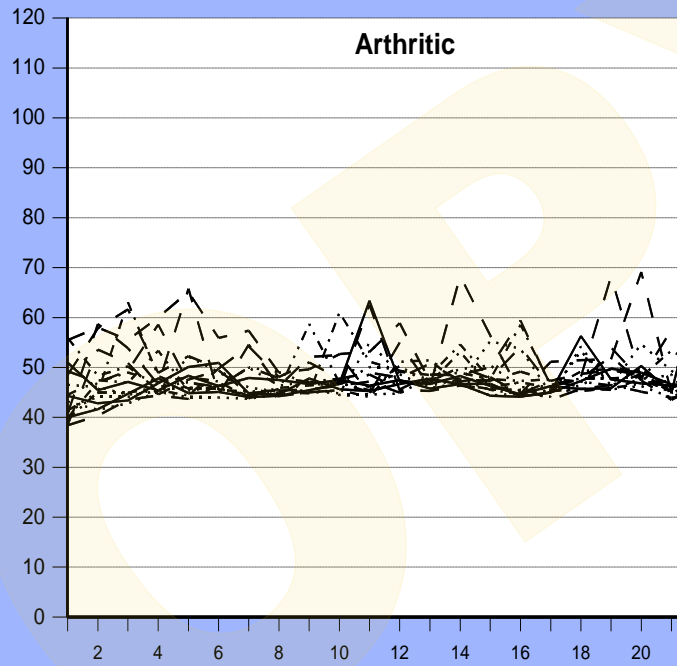
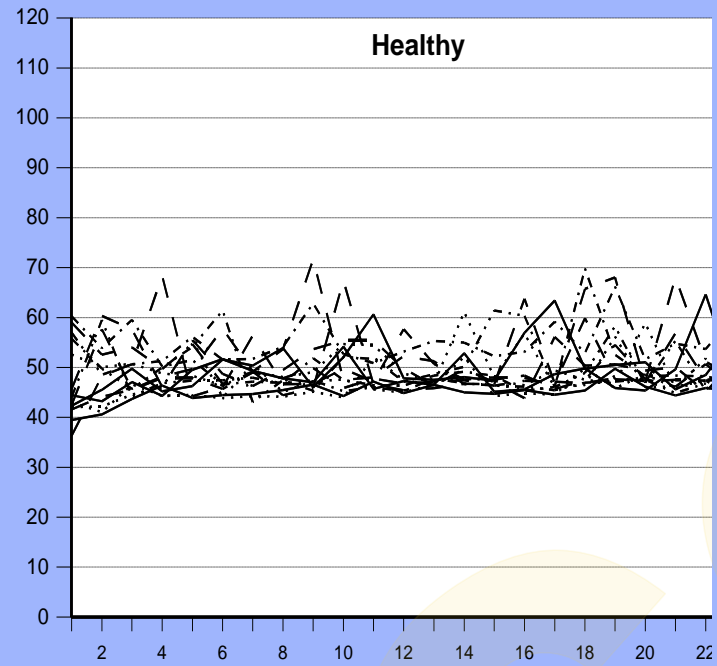
# Within-person variability, social cognition, and social behaviour in old age

David Bunce

Department of Psychology and Brunel  
Institute for Ageing Studies

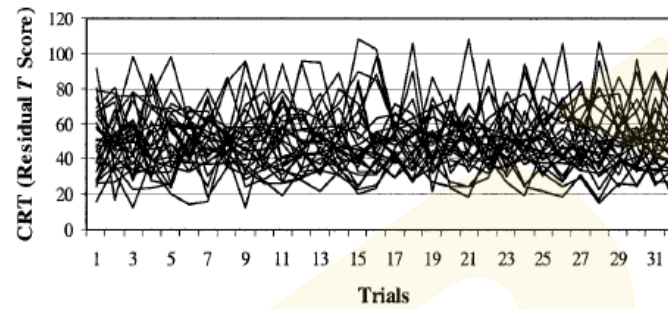
Brunel University, UK

# Hultsch et al. (2000): Dementia and Arthritis study

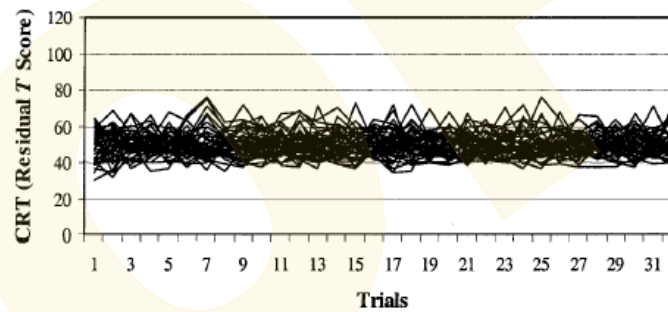


# Williams, Hultsch et al. (2005): Age range 6 to 81 years

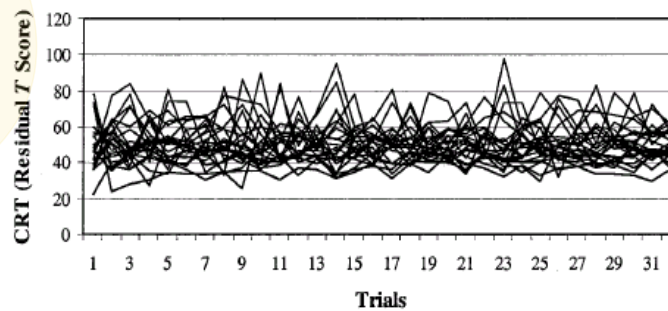
**Group 1 (Age 6-8)**



**Group 4 (Age 18-29)**



**Group 7 (Age 60-81)**



# Explanations of increased behavioural variability

## Neurobiological

- CNS integrity and neurobiological disturbance (Hendrikson, 1982; Hultsch et al., 2008)
- neurotransmitter synthesis (Li et al., 2001)
- neuroanatomical structures and tracts (Bunce et al., 2007; Deary et al., 2006)

## Cognitive

- attentional lapses (Bunce et al., 1993)  
and relatedly
- executive control (Bunce et al., 2004; West et al., 2002)

## Behavioural evidence of increased variability with

- age; neurobiological disturbance (e.g. dementia, brain damage); psychopathology

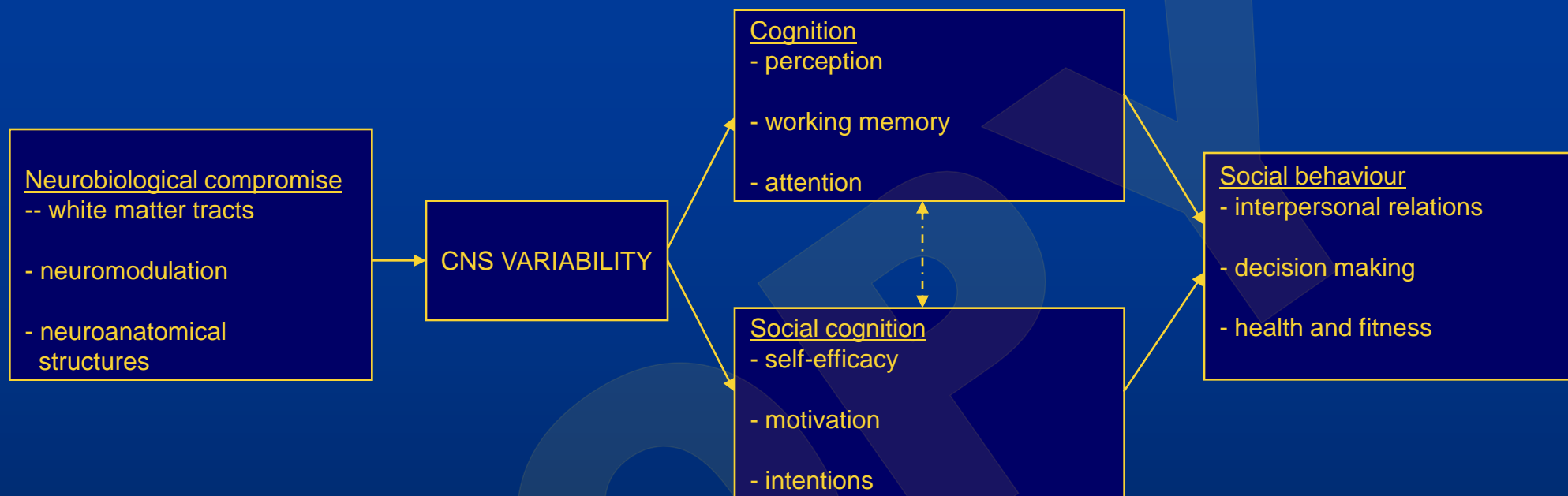


Figure 1: The neurobiological basis for age-related increases in variability in cognition, social cognition, and behaviour