

The Neural Basis of Social Valuation - the Confluence of Neuroscience, Psychology & Economics

Initiative: Freigeist-Fellowships

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Projekt-Website: www.socialrodents.net

We humans are a highly social species, capable of building and sustaining long-lasting social bonds. But how are those bonds generated and reinforced in the first place? Intuitively, we know that we care about what happens to others around us, even if their fortunes do not directly impact us. As such, we attach value, be it positive or negative, to things happening to our social partners. Only recently research into the value of these social outcomes has begun. In this project, a quantitative, interdisciplinary approach to social valuation will be used in rodents to uncover the neural basis of social valuation. In brief, the value of 'social reward' will be explored in four behavioral experiments focusing on choice behavior in social interactions. Subsequently, these experimental paradigms will be followed up with neurobiological interventions and neurophysiological recordings. This combined approach allows testing for causality of brain function in choice behavior. Such animal models could potentially be used to investigate the basis of maladaptive social choice found in psychiatric conditions such as autism and schizophrenia and major depression.

Projektbeteiligte

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Vicarious reward unblocks associative learning about novel cues in male rats

Lesions of the rat basolateral amygdala reduce the behavioral response to ultrasonic vocalizations

Es werden die Institutionen genannt, an denen das Vorhaben durchgeführt wurde, und nicht die aktuelle Adresse.

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