

Department of Economics – Neuroeconomics Seminar

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Connecting Human and Animal Research of Value-Based Decision-Making

There is a substantial body of work in humans and animals that studies the neural mechanisms of value-based decision-making. Two specific topics of interest are decisions that involve risk (e.g. playing a lottery) and that involve delayed rewards (e.g. go on vacation today or save for retirement). Nevertheless, there is only a small amount of work linking across species, and it is not yet clear whether the tasks for human subjects study the same phenomena as the tasks used in animals. By designing behavioral paradigms with the cross-species goal in mind, one can allow more direct comparison and reach across several experimental/conceptual levels: from genes to neural circuits to behavior. I will discuss some progress in our lab towards this goal.