

Department of Economics – Neuroeconomics Seminar

May 16, 2019 - 17:00 - 18:00

Oriel Feldmann Hall Brown University

The Dynamics of Prosocial Choice

How do humans make choices when there are competing pressures of fairness, harm, self-interest, and concern for others? Combining behavioral and neuroscientific methods, our research explores the social, emotional and cognitive factors that shape and ultimately guide these complex prosocial choices and how we learn to make such decisions. Here we explore this space from multiple angles, first examining how individual differences systematically amplify or attenuate prosociality. We then examine how context and emotional engagement provides boundary conditions that can further strengthen the desire to be pro- or anti-social. Taken together, this work demonstrates that while moral behavior is flexibly deployed, there are key factors that can systematically bias our social choices.