University of Zurich UZH

Department of Economics – Neuroeconomics Seminar

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On the mentalizing network and model-based decision-making

Both social and non-social decision-making involve a domain-general neural valuation network that may receive input from higher-order processes. For social decision-making in particular, the mentalizing network may handle higher-order *social* processes which then can be projected onto the valuation network. However, the mentalizing network is not always involved in social decision-making and it is involved in non-social processes as well. What is the role of the mentalizing network in decision-making? In my talk, I relate this issue to the literature on model-based and model-free decision-making and argue that the mentalizing network may be involved in – social and non-social – model-based decision-making. I will present to you the results of a recent fMRI study in which I tested whether the mentalizing network is involved in non-social model-based decision-making.