



**University of  
Zurich** <sup>UZH</sup>

## Department of Economics – Neuroeconomics Seminar

**November 30, 2017 - 17:00 - 18:00**

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### **My reality is what I agree to attend to: the neural and behavioral mechanisms of active sampling policies**

The profound impact of information limitations and informational asymmetries on decision making has long been appreciated in economics and the social sciences. Similarly, studies in neuroscience and psychology have made it abundantly clear that humans and other animals sparsely sample sensory information streams, and do so using active sensing behaviors (such as listening, looking or attending to selected cues) that are tightly coordinated with their beliefs and goals. Strikingly however, despite their ubiquity and importance, active sampling policies have received scant empirical attention and very little is known about their mechanisms. I will describe emerging findings from our laboratory regarding the neural and behavioral control of active sampling policies according to the uncertainty and rewards of ongoing actions, and discuss the implications of these findings for decisions and cognitive function.