



**University of
Zurich** ^{UZH}

Department of Economics – Neuroeconomics Seminar

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The failing of the ‘ideal observer’: aberrant learning in the context of pain

Psychological treatment for chronic pain consists to a large degree in attempts to challenge patients' negative expectations about their pain and ways to overcome it. Yet, to patients' and health care professionals' frustration alike, pain-related expectations can be highly resistant to extinction, which has been linked to pain maintenance and persistent psychological impairment. In my talk, I will first address the role of expectations in perception and pain in particular before I present studies exploring the neural basis of aberrant pain-related learning and discuss their implications for new treatment approaches.