

TITLE:

Economic decision-making: Empathic social interactions, neural correlates and prediction models

ABSTRACT:

In this project we study one determinant of decision-making, as well as its underlying brain activity, that has been so far under-investigated in strategic social interactions: empathy. To do this we study experimental evidence from Ultimatum Game (UG) experiments from both a behavioral and a neuro-functional perspective. We focus on UGs because interactions in UGs are likely to involve strong empathic motives, as suggested by available empirical evidence on pro-social behavior and preferences. Our main objective is to establish if, and to what extent, a strong feeling of empathy in a social interaction triggers a qualitatively different reasoning (or, if it can be established, a protocol of reasoning) which leads to a quantitatively different behavior.