EMBEDDING CHOICE AND THE NEURAL UNDERPINNINGS OF SOCIAL-SITUATED DECISION-MAKING

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Human decision-making depends sensitively on social context. Examples of this assertion abound, but turning these observations into scientific probes of how the brain underwrites such a sensitivity has been challenging.

In recent years, brain imaging and fast computing have opened new doors on socially embedded choice in humans, and we are beginning to expose the neural basis of some fundamental features of social interaction in humans.

In this talk I will survey my own lab's efforts to study two-party interactions using several novel approaches. These approaches have implications for understanding mental disease and neurological injury but they also begin to open up wider questions about the neural mechanisms that underwrite many institutions that we care about.