

# Multiple facets of social influence in goal-directed learning

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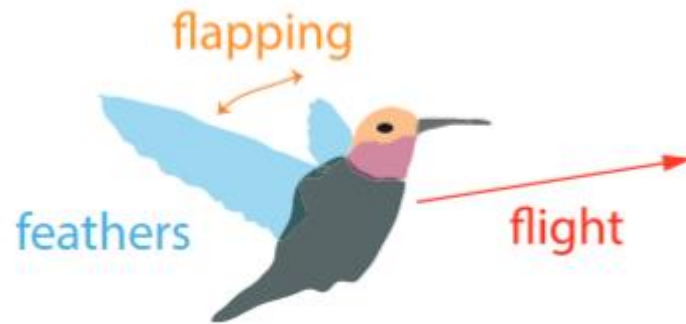
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Universitätsklinikum  
Hamburg-Eppendorf

# Marr's 3 levels

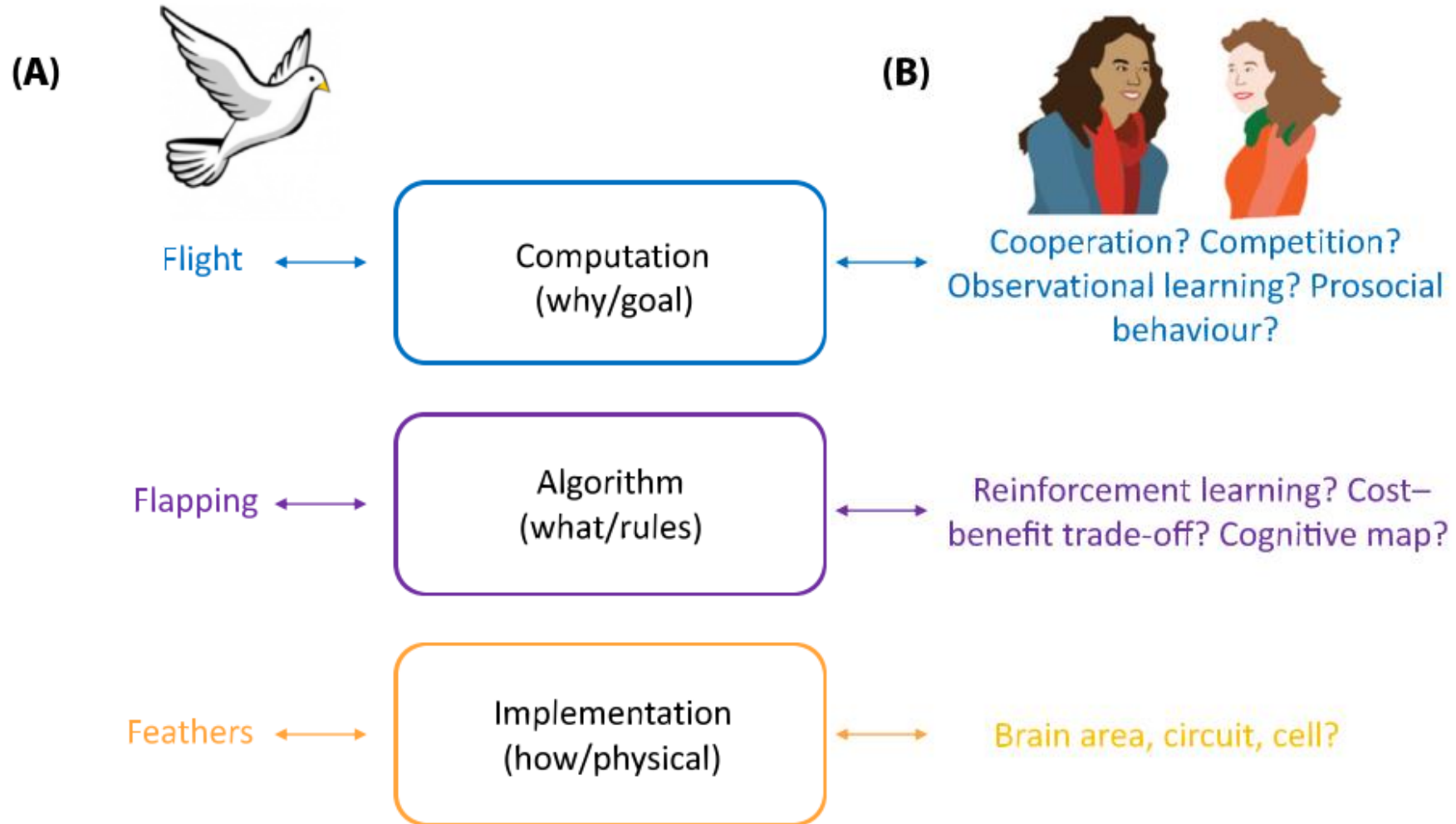


Computational theory	Representation and algorithm	Hardware implementation
What is the goal of the computation, why is it appropriate, and what is the logic of the strategy by which it can be carried out?	How can this computational theory be implemented? In particular, what is the representation for the input and output, and what is the algorithm for the transformation?	How can the representation and algorithm be realized physically?

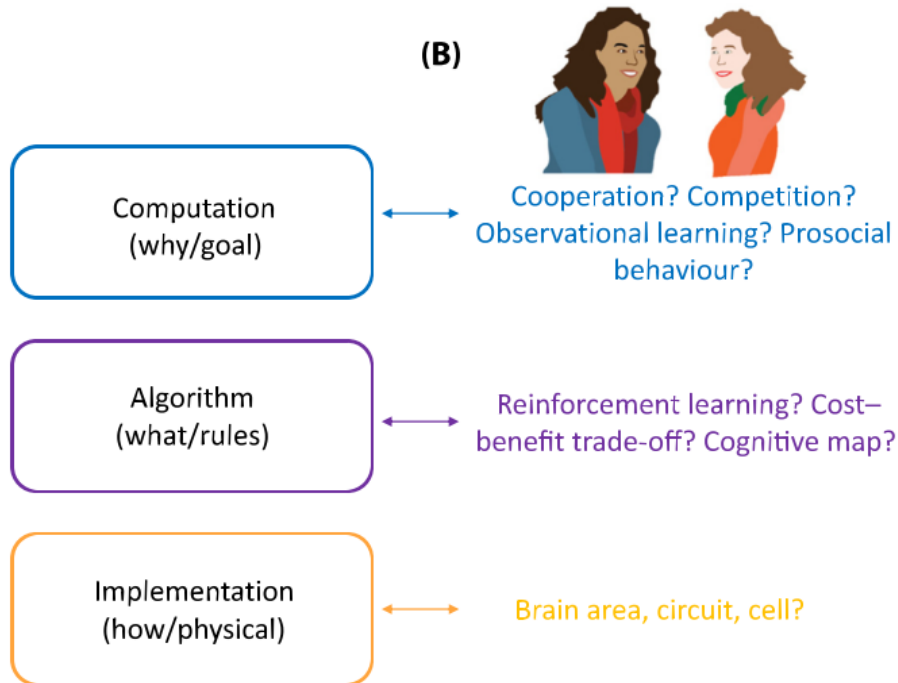
*Figure 1–4.* The three levels at which any machine carrying out an information-processing task must be understood.

[...] “trying to understand perception by understanding neurons is like trying to understand a bird’s flight by studying only feathers. It just cannot be done”

# Marr's 3 levels



# My own research



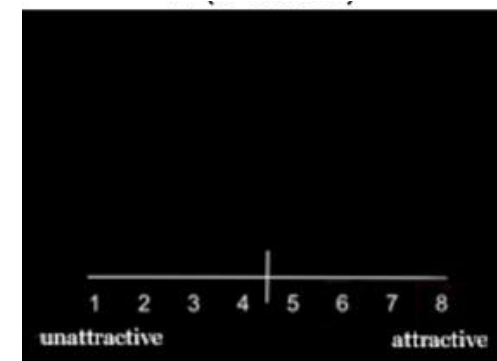
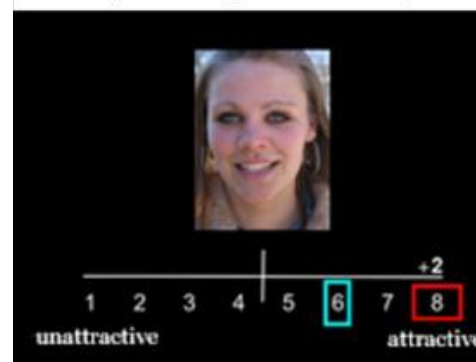
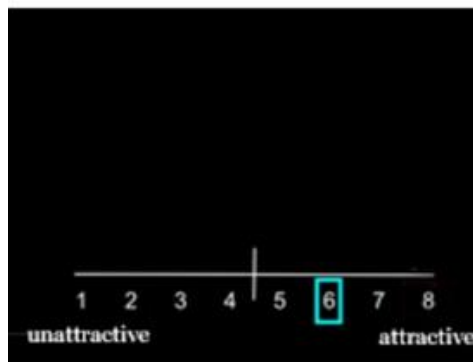
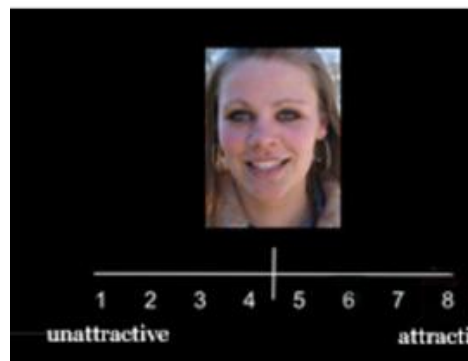
Overarching goal:  
uncover the **neuro-computational mechanisms** underlying social decision-making

→ social specificity?





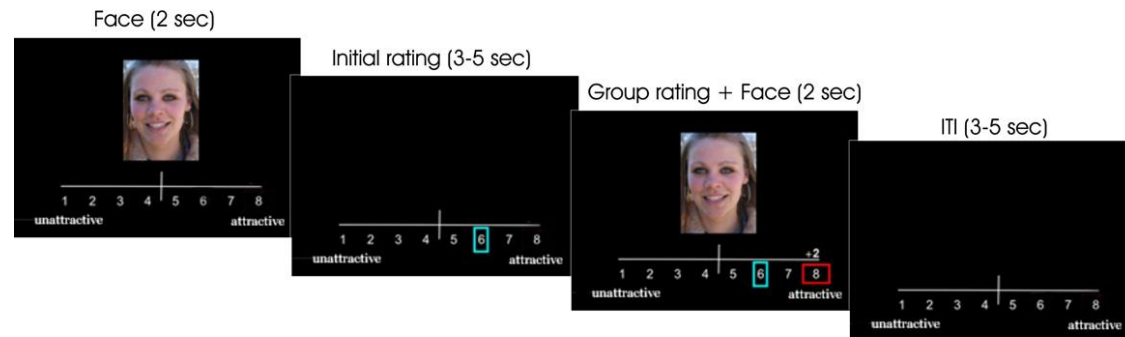
# Social influence



**Challenge: no feedback** is given in subjective decisions,  
hence direct no measure of internal value representation

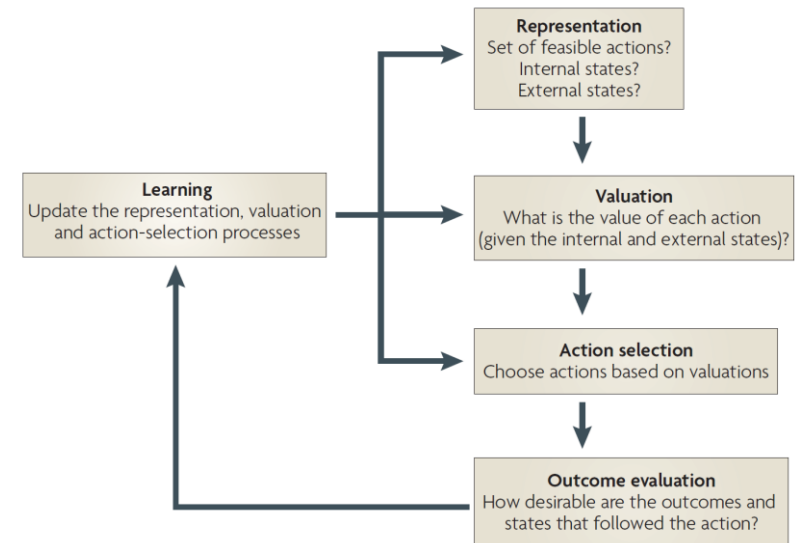


## social influence



Klucharev et al, 2009

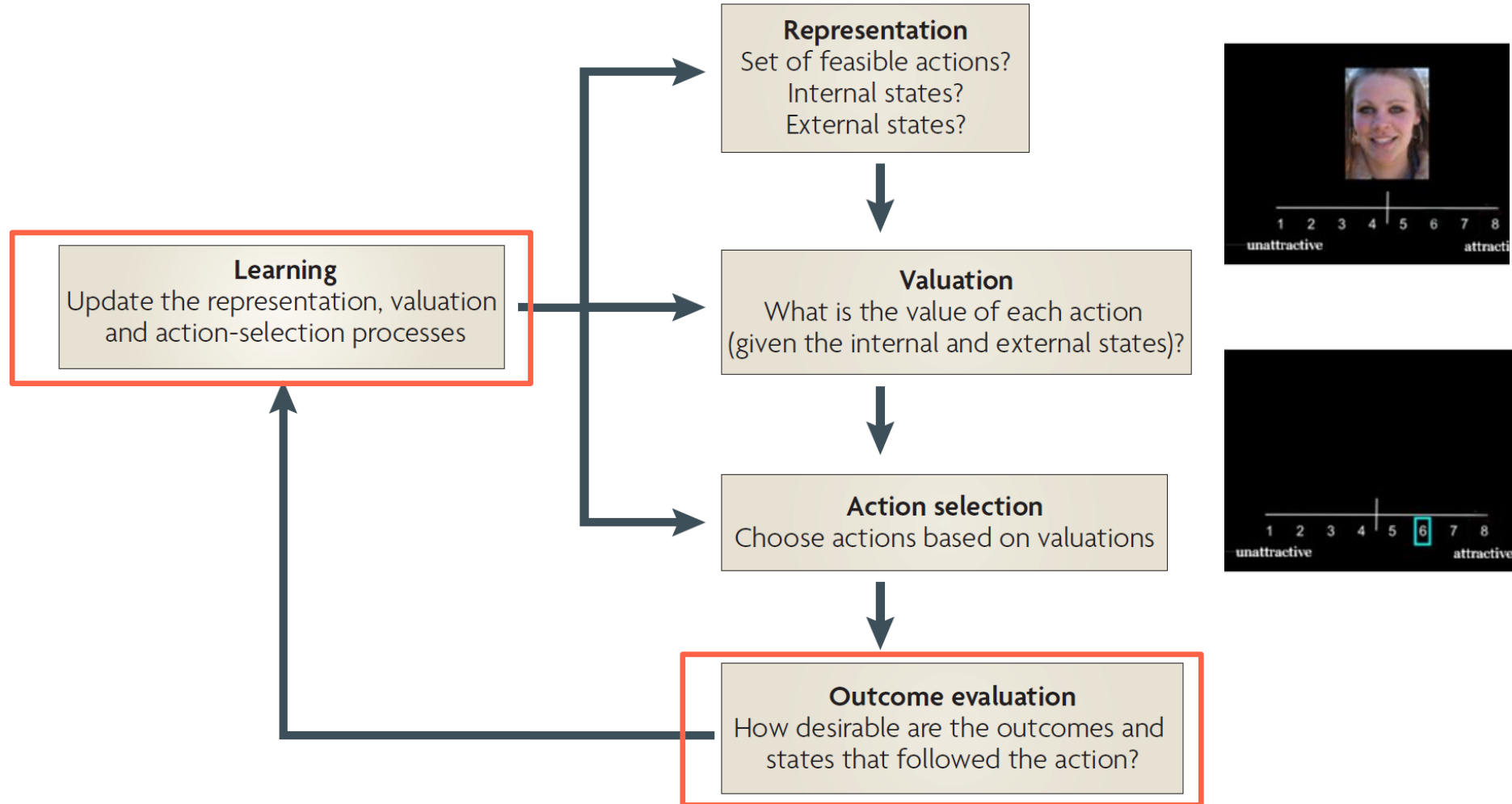
## goal-directed learning



Rangel et al, 2008



# Goal-directed learning

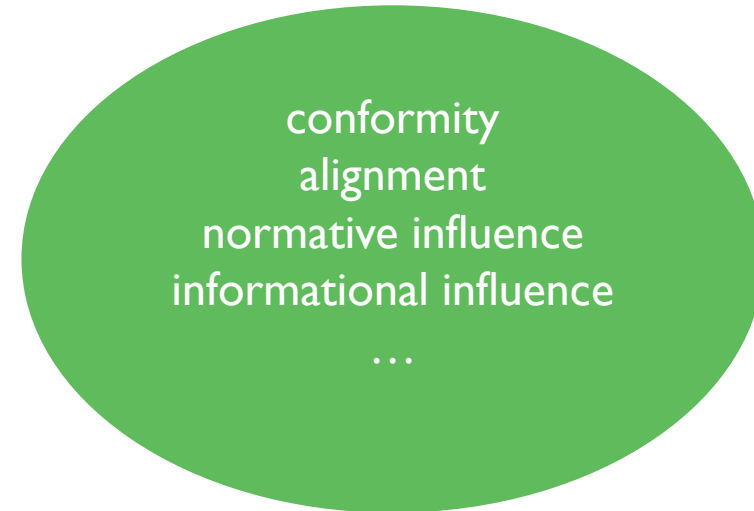


# The current study

goal-directed learning



social influence

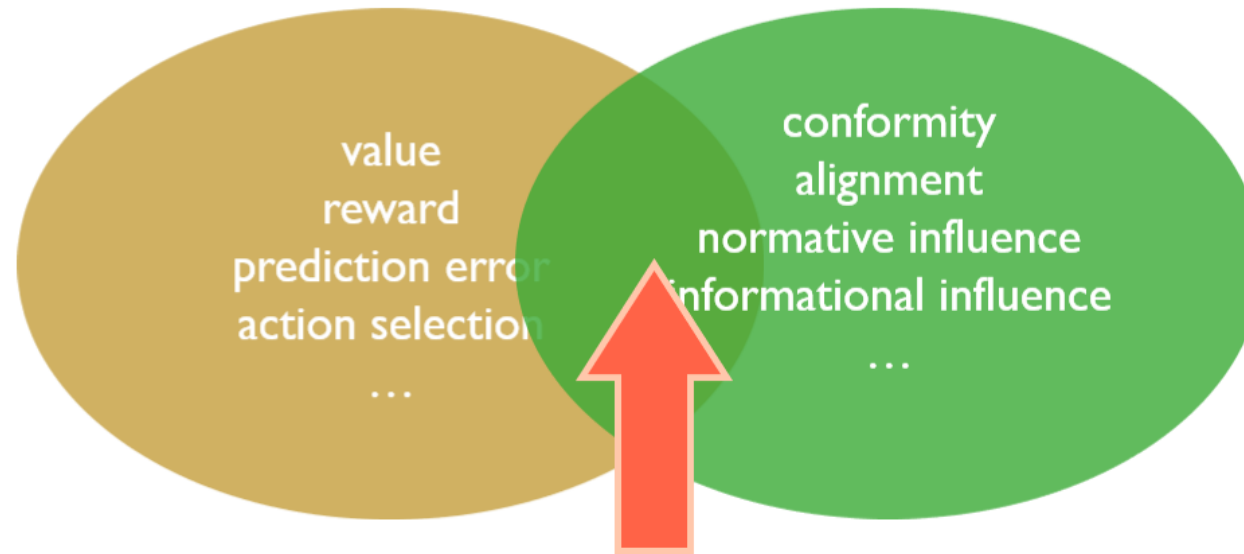


social influence on  
goal-directed learning

# The current study

goal-directed learning

social influence

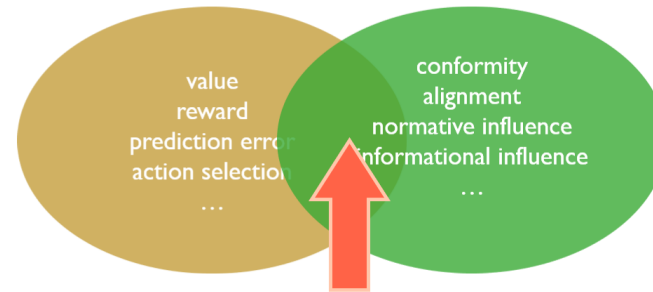


social influence on  
goal-directed learning

# Where does social influence come from?

goal-directed learning

social influence



Direct  
learning

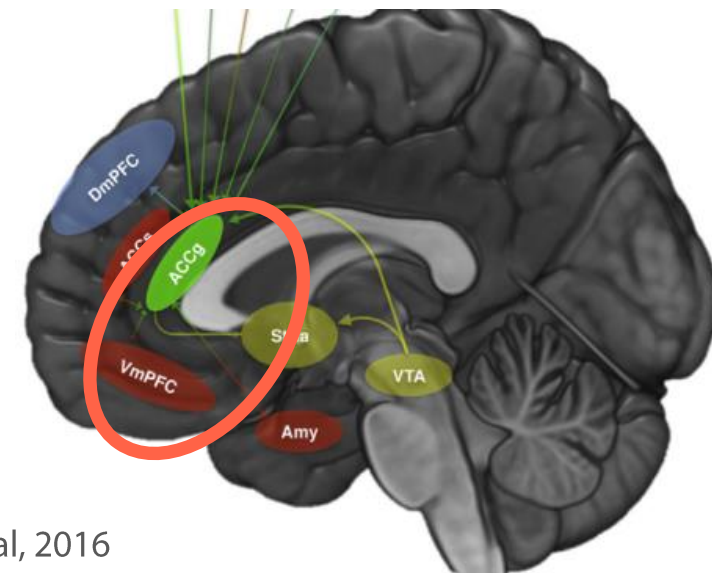


Social learning /  
observational learning

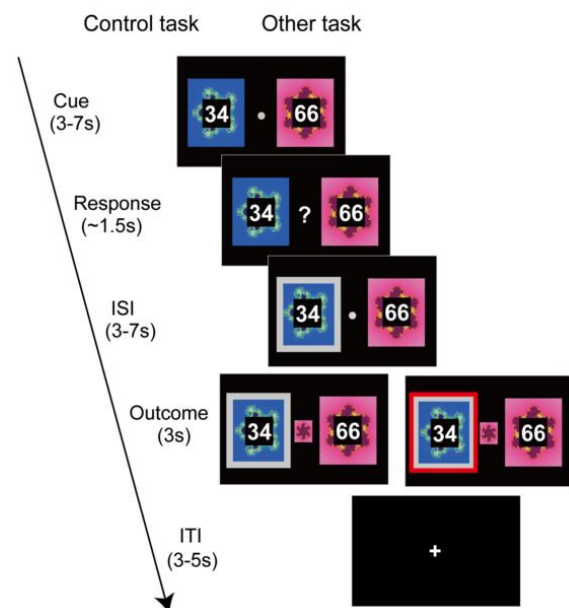
# direct vs social learning



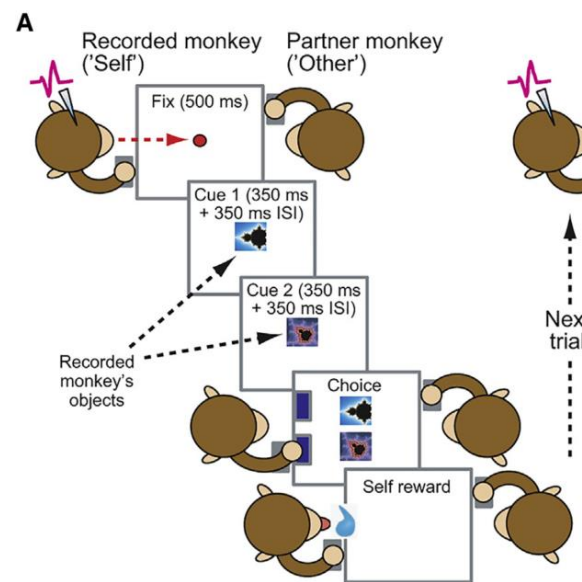
- Dopaminergic system: Self-referenced rewards and decisions
- Cognitive/Affective system: Self-referenced decisions
- Mentalizing system: meta-representation / strategy
- Premotor system: Action observation



Apps et al, 2016

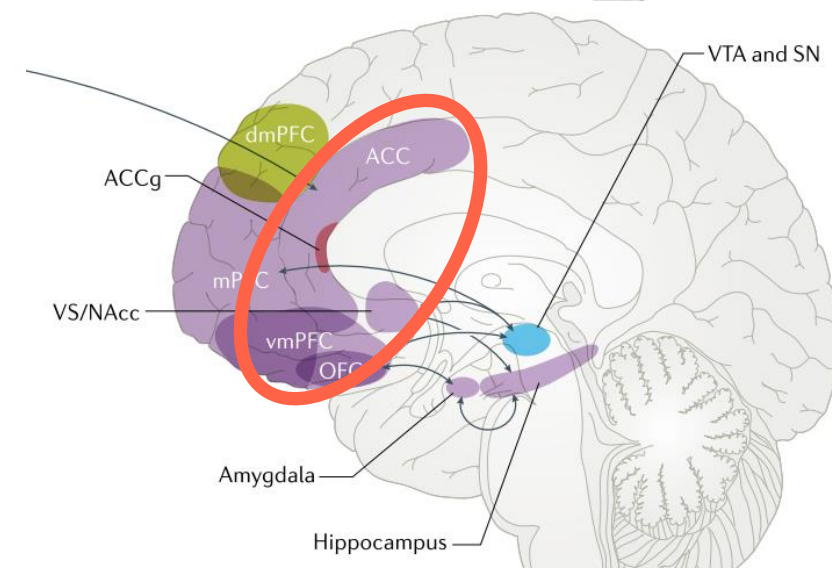


Suzuki et al, 2012



Grabenhorst et al, 2019

- Social learning
- Non-social learning
- Non-social and social learning
- Social cognition
- Motor/mirroring



Olsson et al, 2020

# Research Question

How does knowing about other people's decisions influence my own **choices** in the same environment?

behavioral  
readouts

Computation  
(why/goal)

What is the underlying **algorithm** by which social influence is integrated into my own decision-making?

computational  
modeling

Algorithm  
(what/rules)

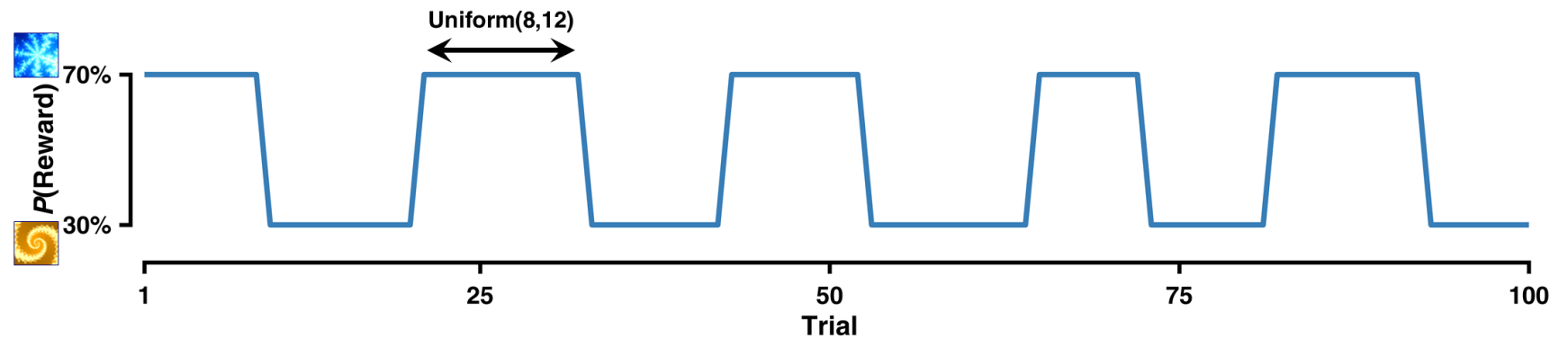
How such computation is implemented in the **brain**?

functional  
neuroimaging

Implementation  
(how/physical)

# Paradigm

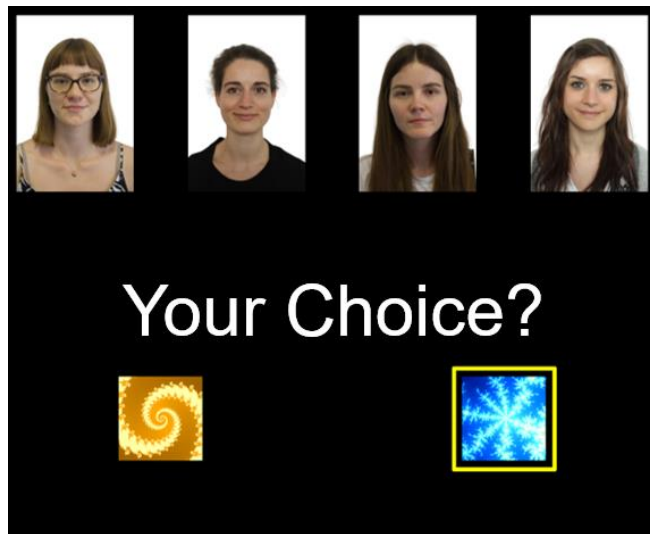
- **Probabilistic reversal learning task**
- Goal: maximize the outcome
- **Group decision-making**
  - 5 same-gender subjects / group
- 185 participants (95 F, 18-37 yrs)
- Truly real-time communication via intranet



$$p(\text{❄}) = 1 - p(\text{🌀})$$



# Procedure

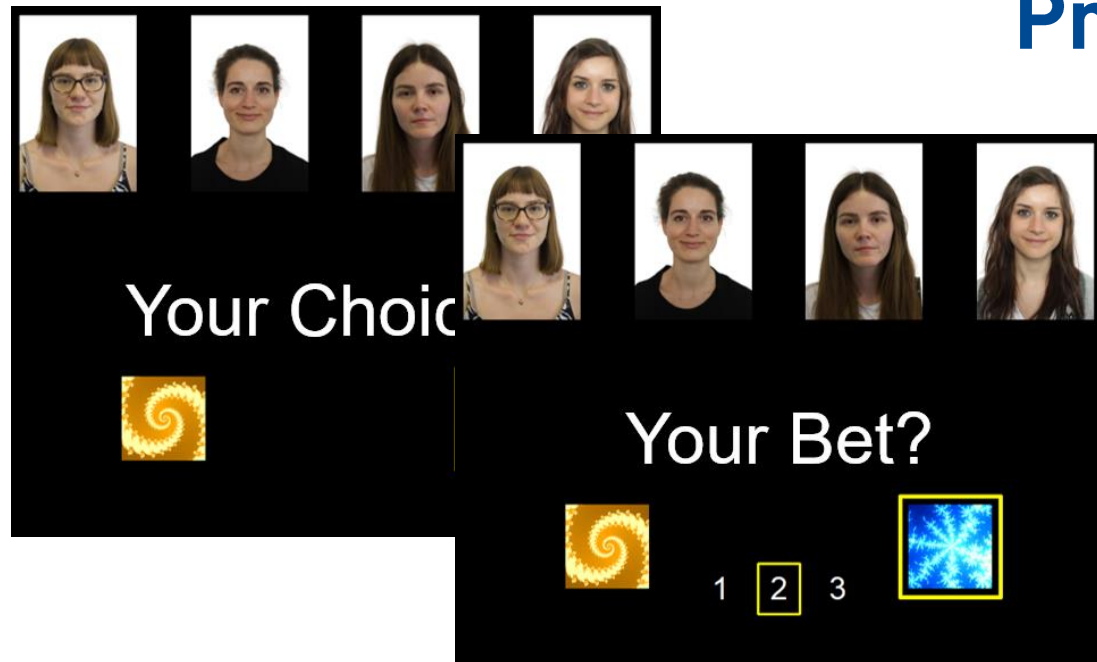


1<sup>st</sup> choice

\*post-decision wagering metric (Persaud et al., 2007)

\*\* 2<sup>nd</sup> choice and 2<sup>nd</sup> bet

# Procedure



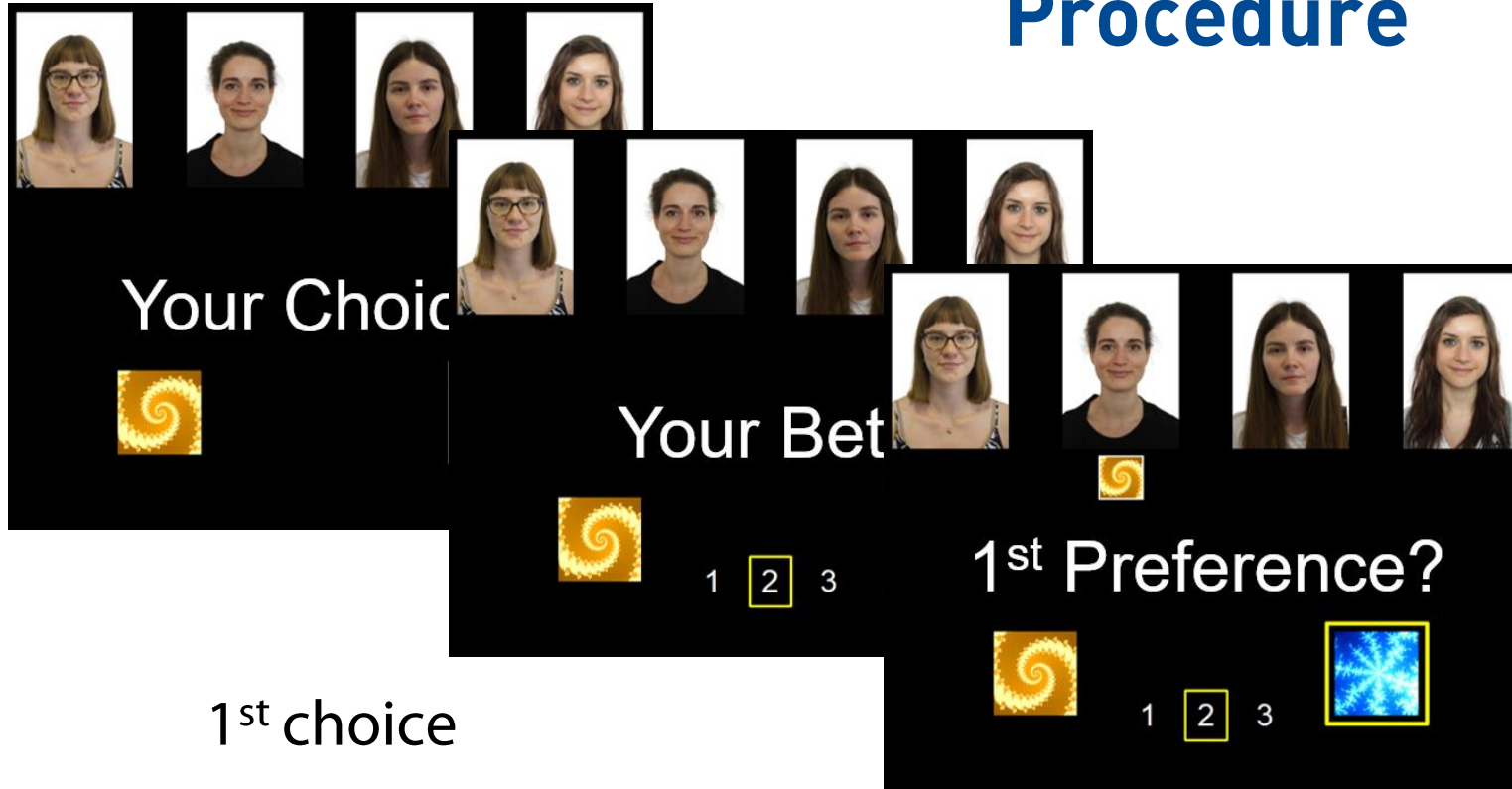
1<sup>st</sup> choice

1<sup>st</sup> bet\*

\*post-decision wagering metric (Persaud et al., 2007)

\*\* 2<sup>nd</sup> choice and 2<sup>nd</sup> bet

# Procedure



1<sup>st</sup> choice

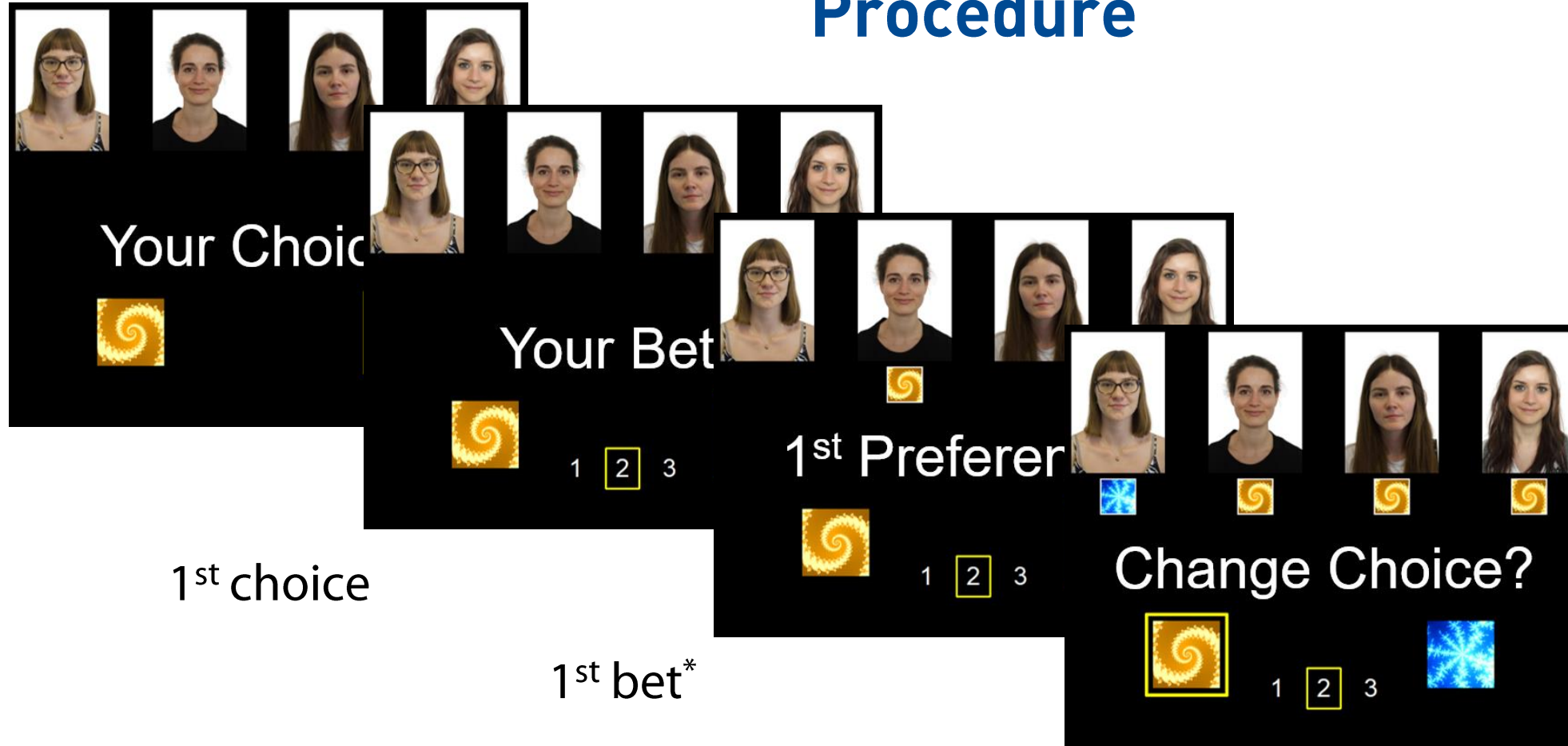
1<sup>st</sup> bet\*

preference

\*post-decision wagering metric (Persaud et al., 2007)

\*\* 2<sup>nd</sup> choice and 2<sup>nd</sup> bet

# Procedure



1<sup>st</sup> choice

1<sup>st</sup> bet\*

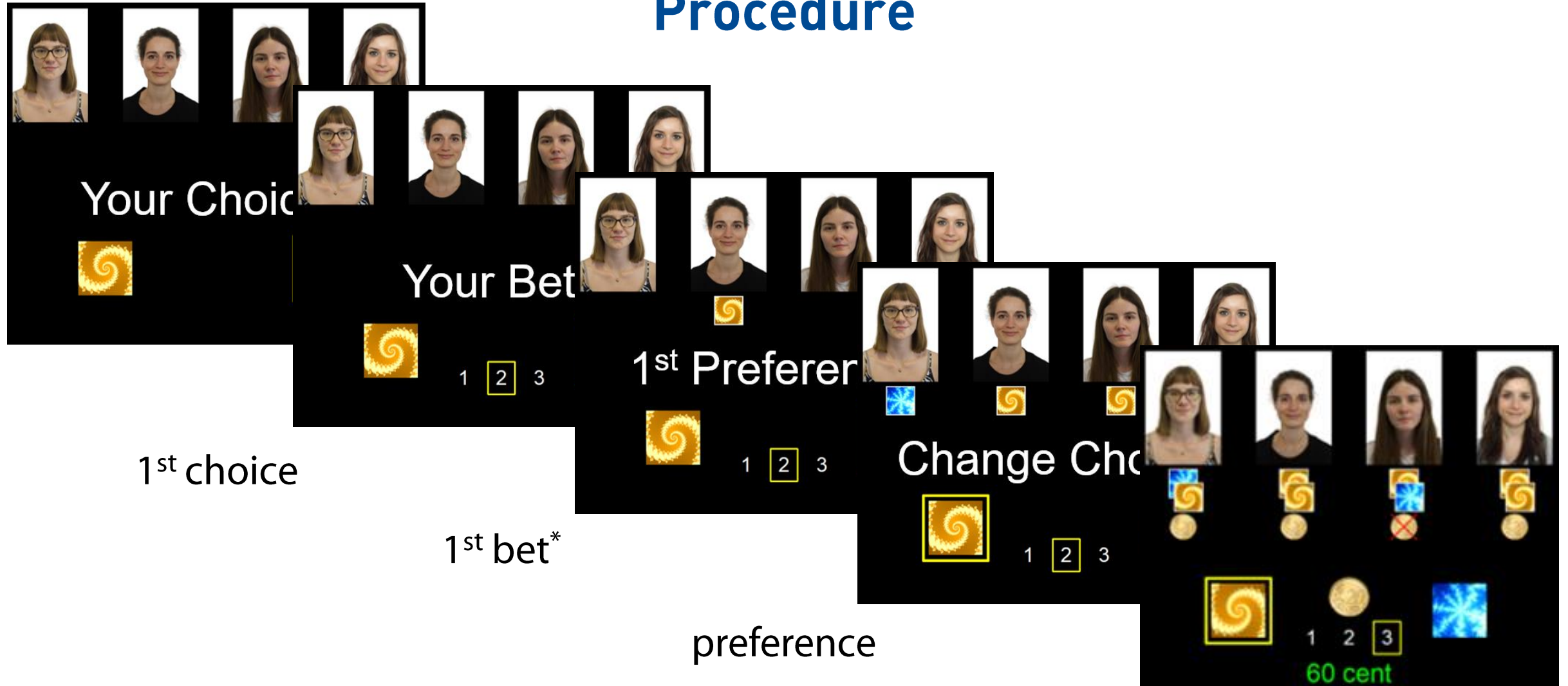
preference

adjustment\*\*

\*post-decision wagering metric (Persaud et al., 2007)

\*\* 2<sup>nd</sup> choice and 2<sup>nd</sup> bet

# Procedure

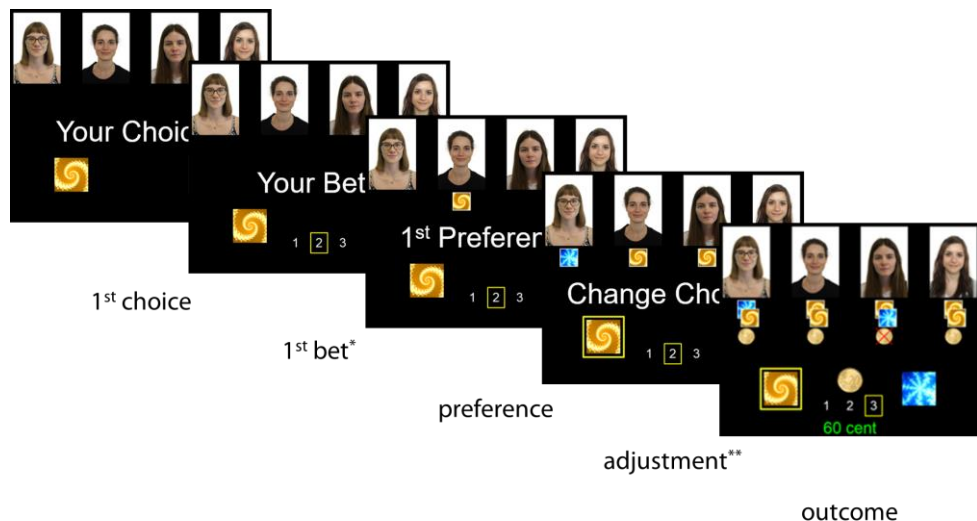


\*post-decision wagering metric (Persaud et al., 2007)

\*\* 2<sup>nd</sup> choice and 2<sup>nd</sup> bet

outcome





# Why bother?











- Enhances **ecological validity**
- Allows to dissociate **reward-based** info and **socially-based** info
- Suitable for applying **computational modeling**
- Enables to **parametrically test** the effect of group coherence



# Behavioral Results

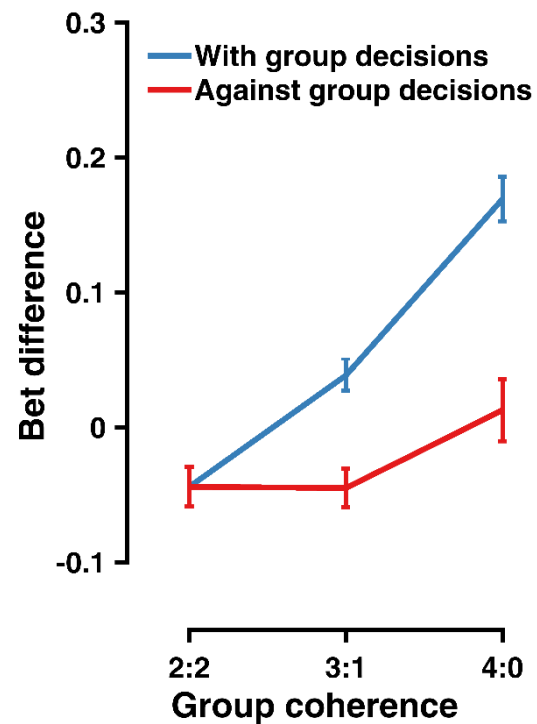
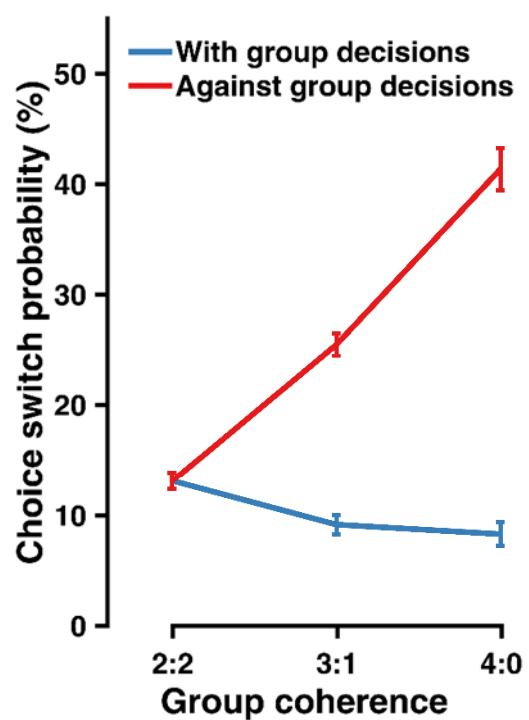
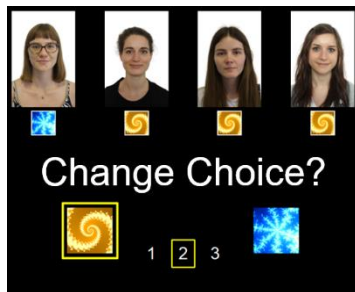
group coherence

2:2    

3:1    

4:0    

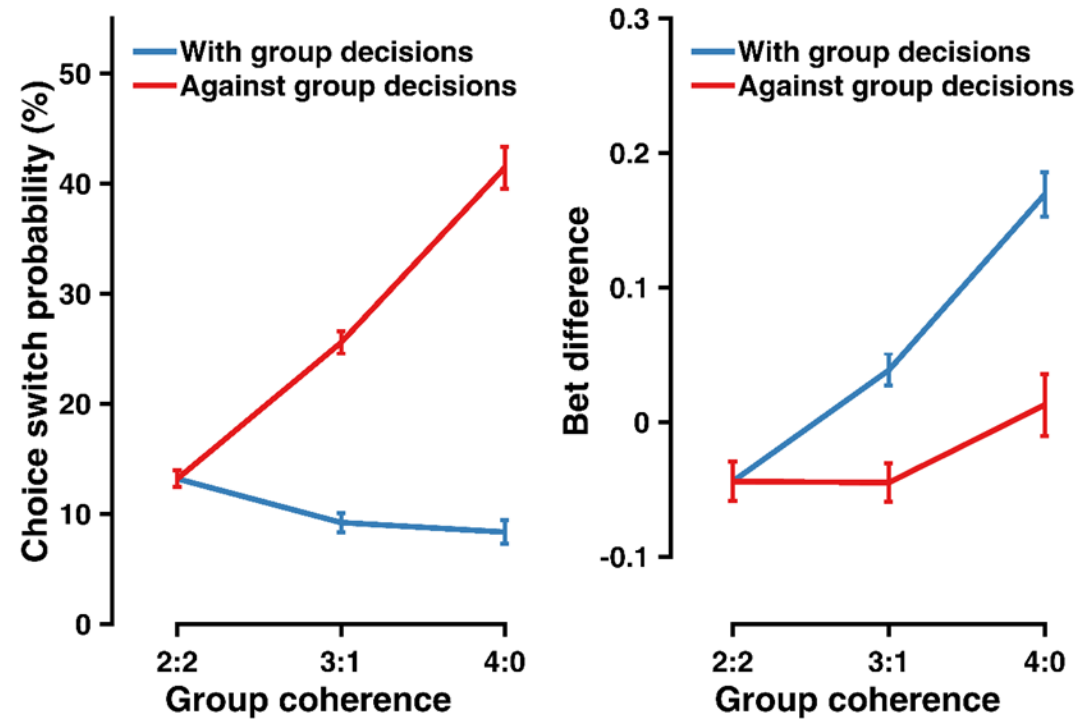
self  / 





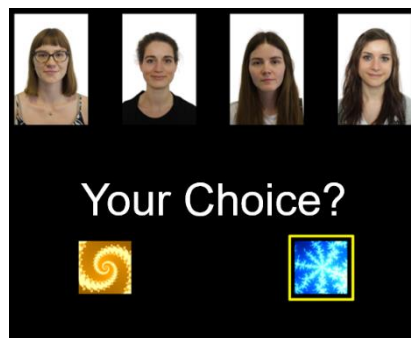
# Computational Modeling

What to be modeled?

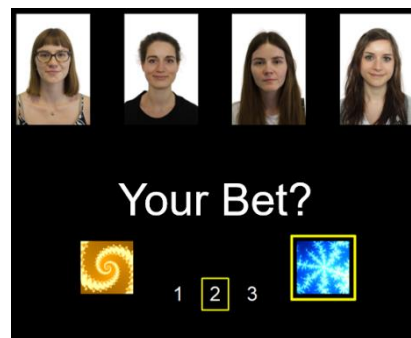


# Computational Modeling

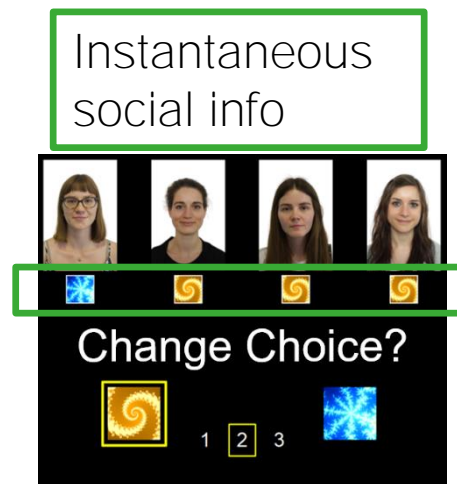
What to be modeled?



1<sup>st</sup> choice

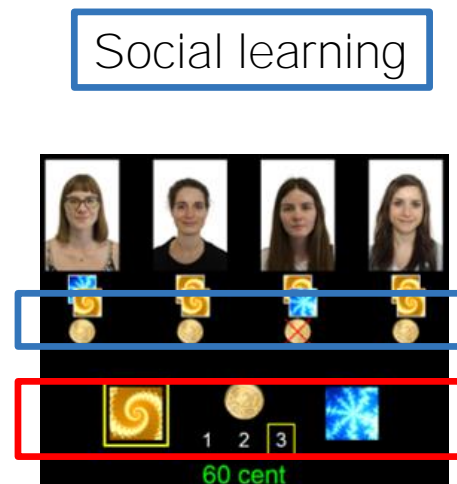


1<sup>st</sup> bet



2<sup>nd</sup> choice

2<sup>nd</sup> bet



Direct learning

Instantaneous  
social info

1<sup>st</sup> choice

1<sup>st</sup> bet

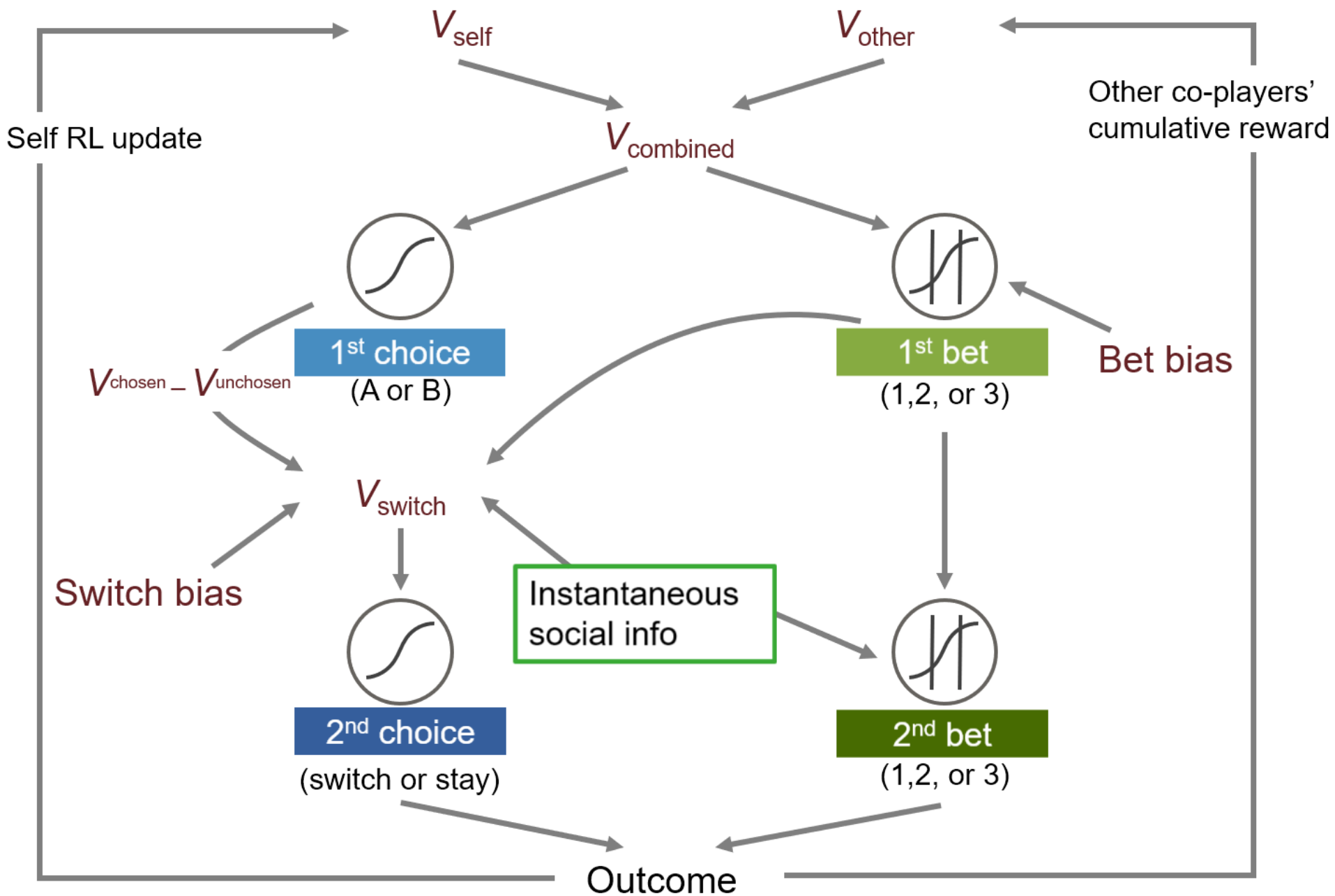
2<sup>nd</sup> choice

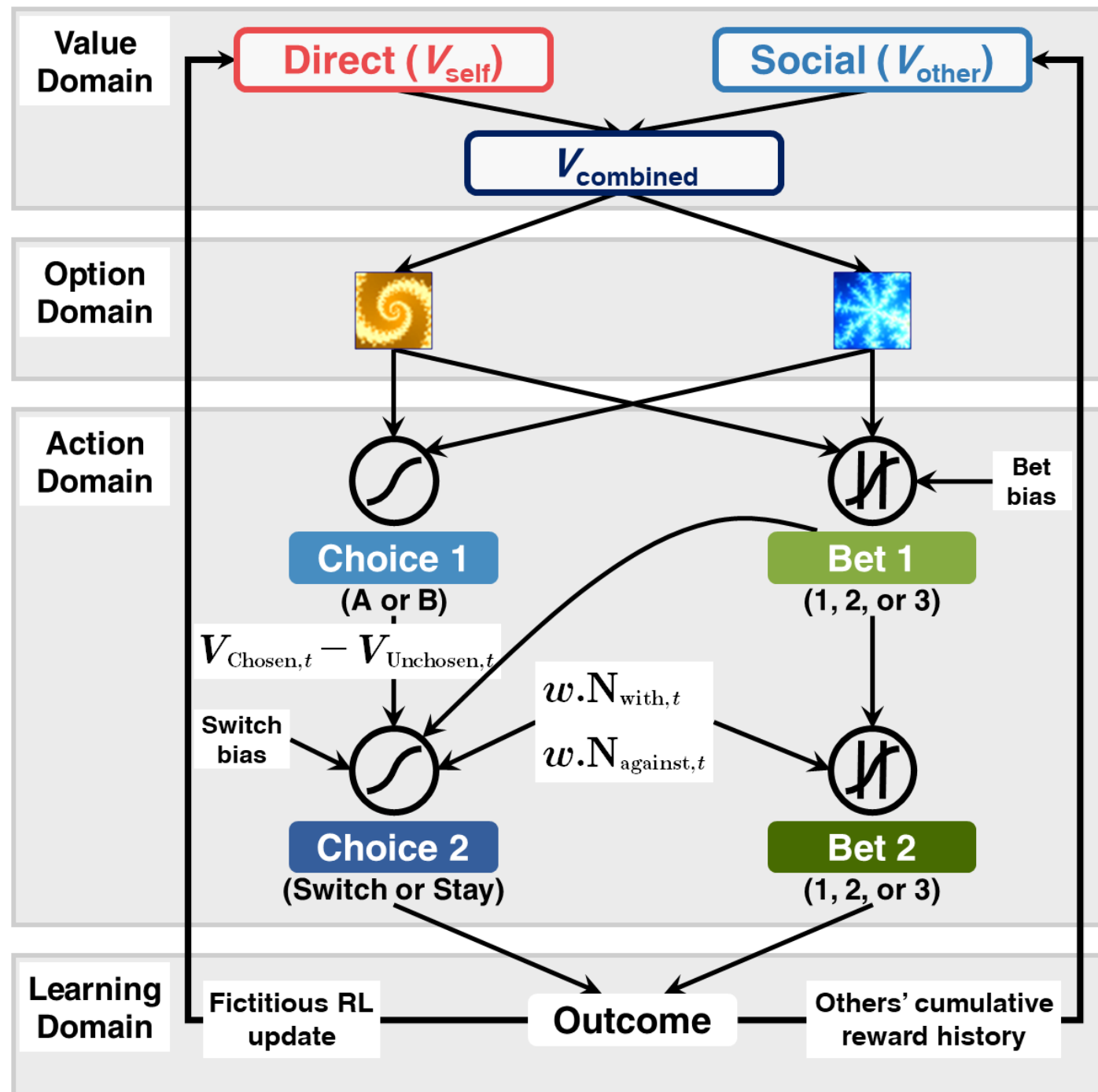
Direct learning

2<sup>nd</sup> bet

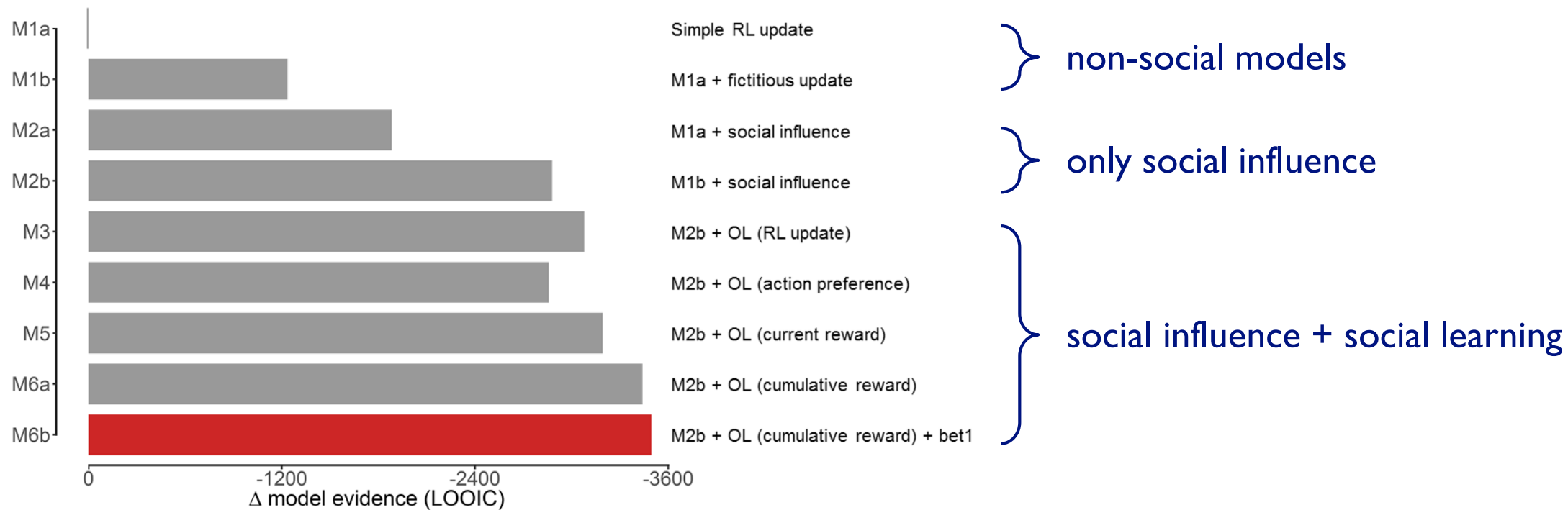
Direct learning

Social learning



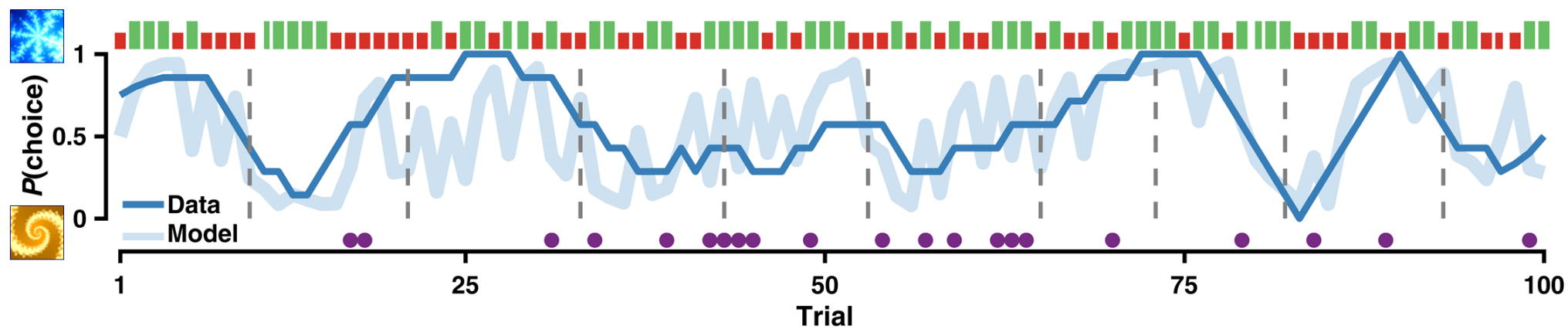
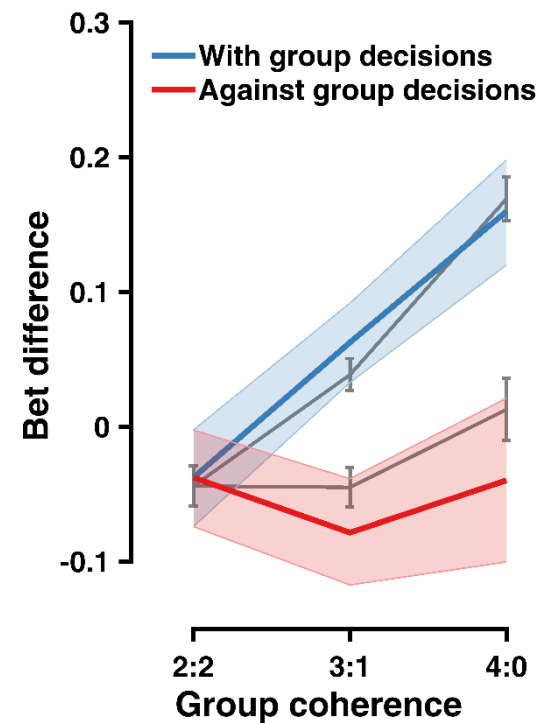
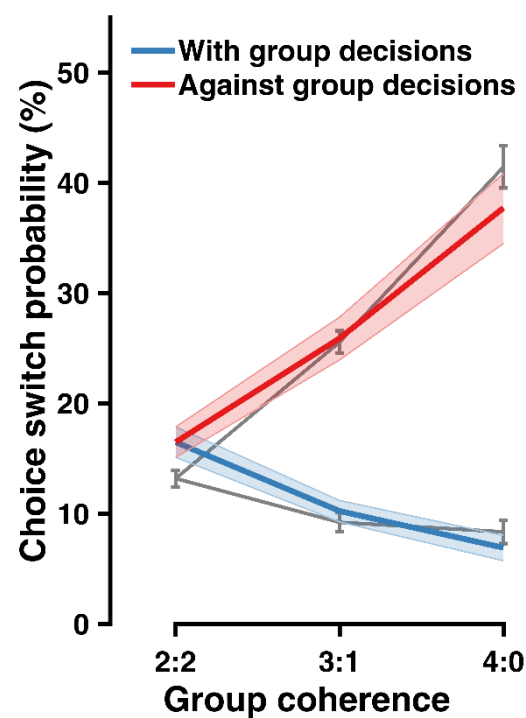


# Model Comparison



Hierarchical Bayesian Modeling (MCMC)  
+ Leave-one-out model prediction

# Posterior predictive check





# Summary

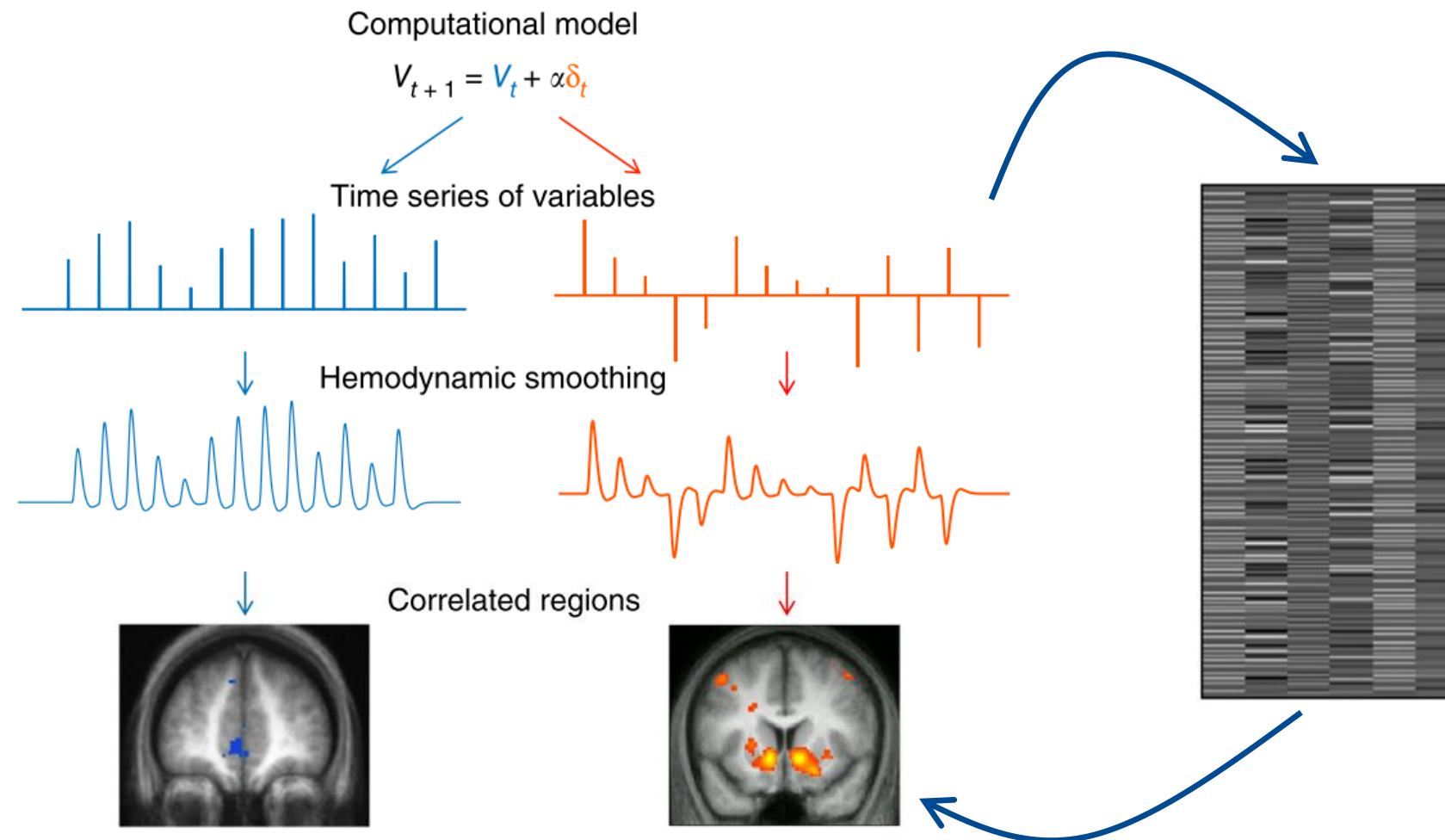
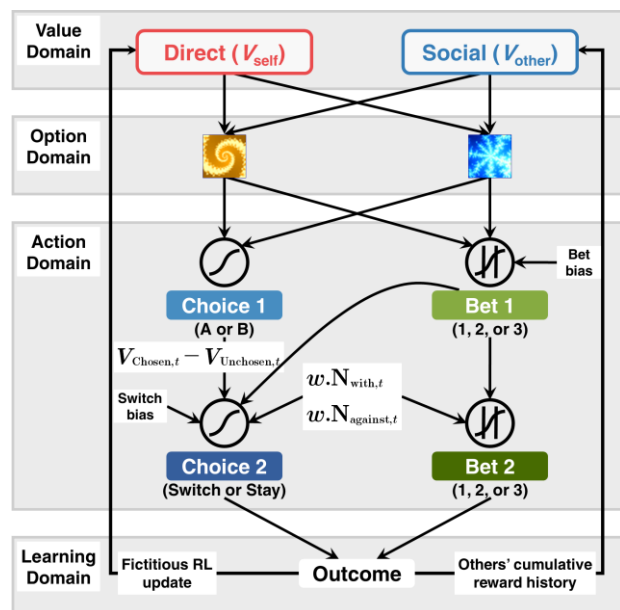


Social influence affects both choice and bet  
(computational).

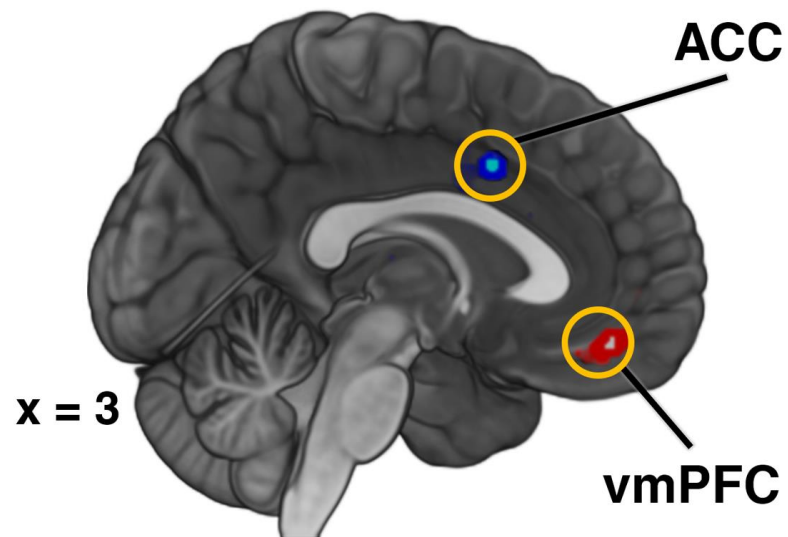
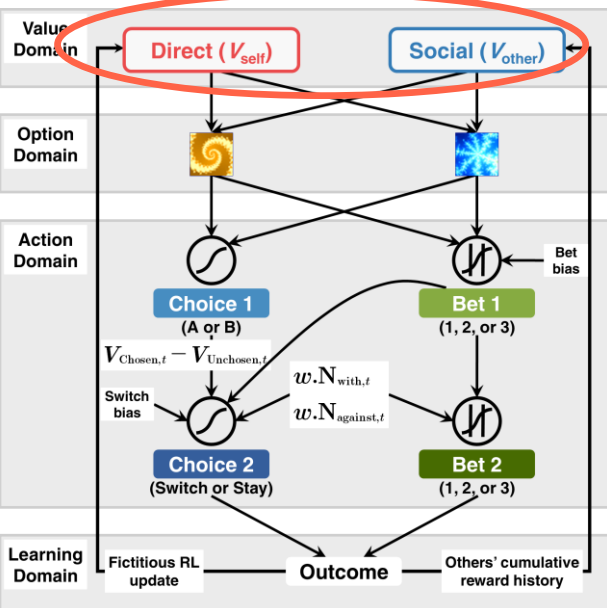
Instantaneous social information predicts behavioral  
adjustment (algorithmic).

Learning is a weighted combination of direct  
learning and observational learning (algorithmic).

# Model-based fMRI analysis



# Dissociable value signals

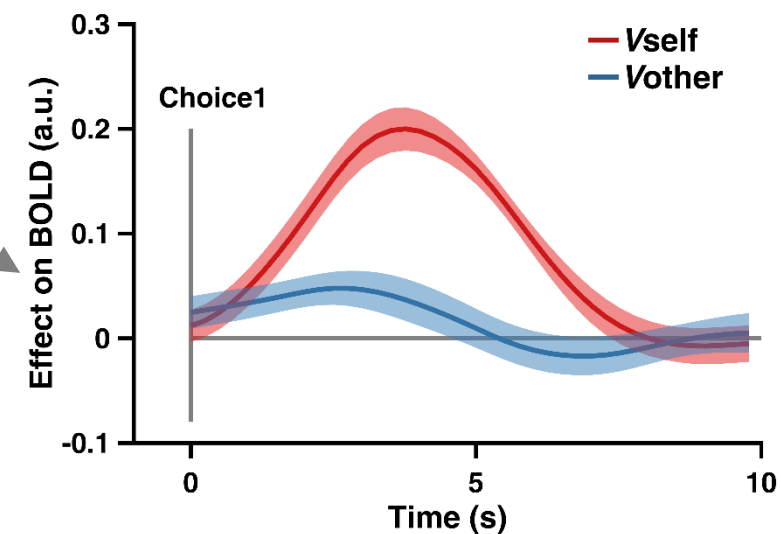
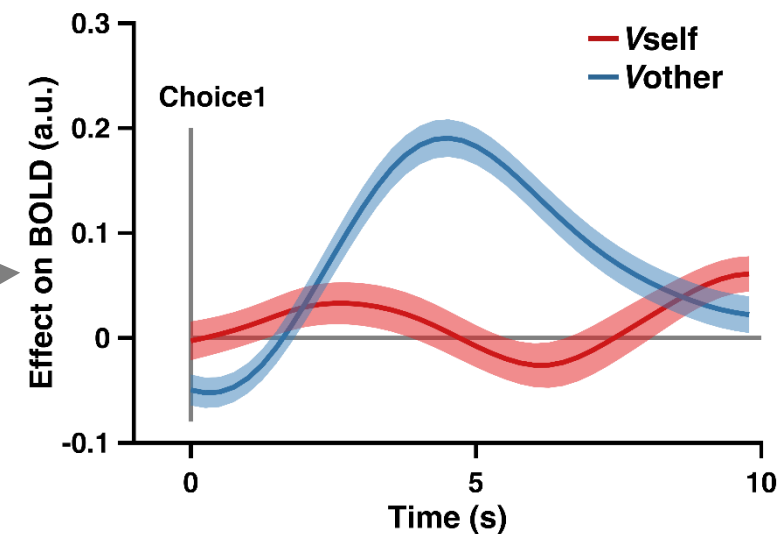


$V_{self}$

Red:  $p < 0.001$ , SVC  
Yellow:  $p < 0.0001$ , SVC

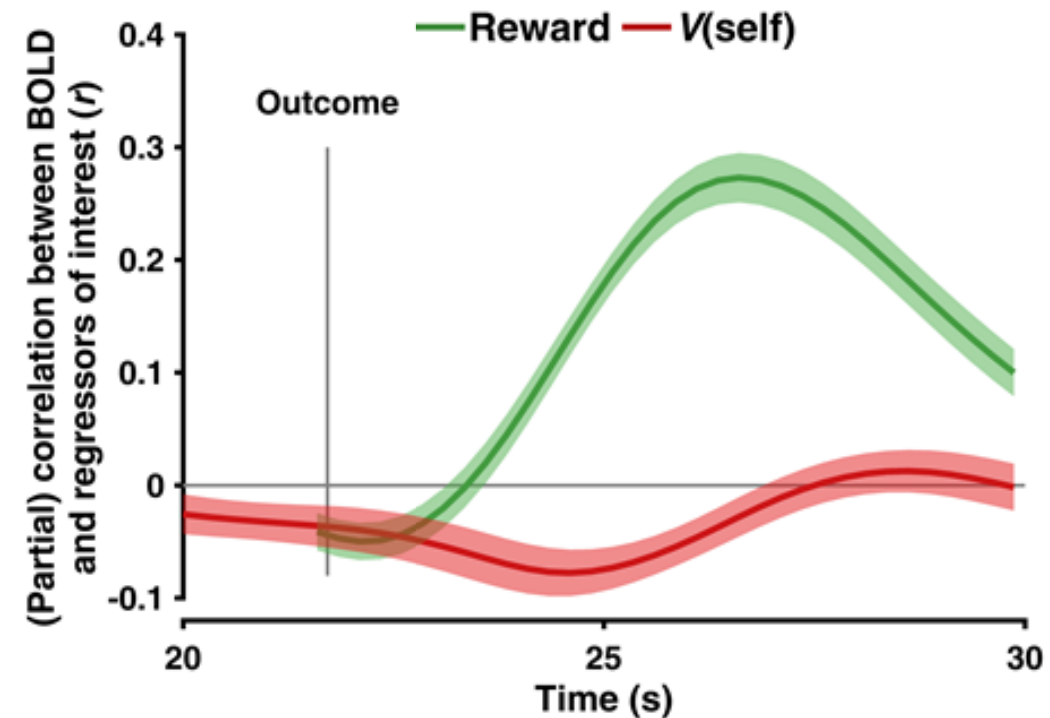
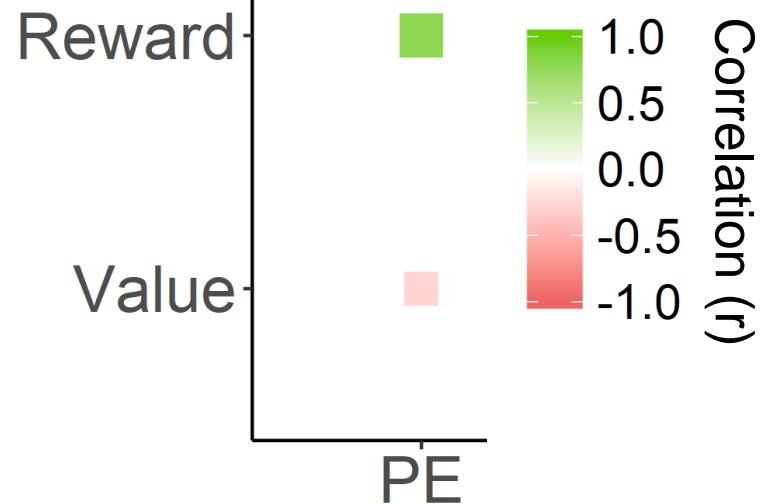
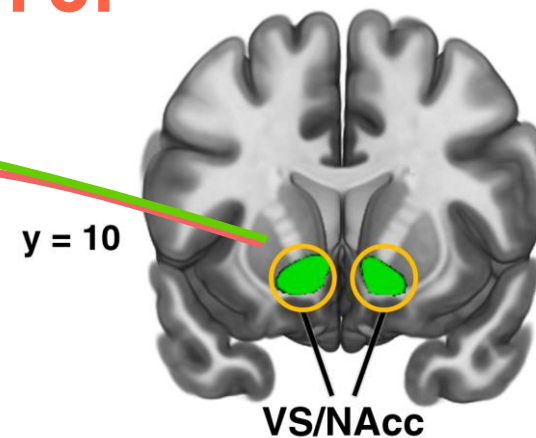
$V_{other}$

Blue:  $p < 0.001$ , SVC  
Light Blue:  $p < 0.0001$ , SVC



# Reward prediction error

$$PE = R_t - V_t$$

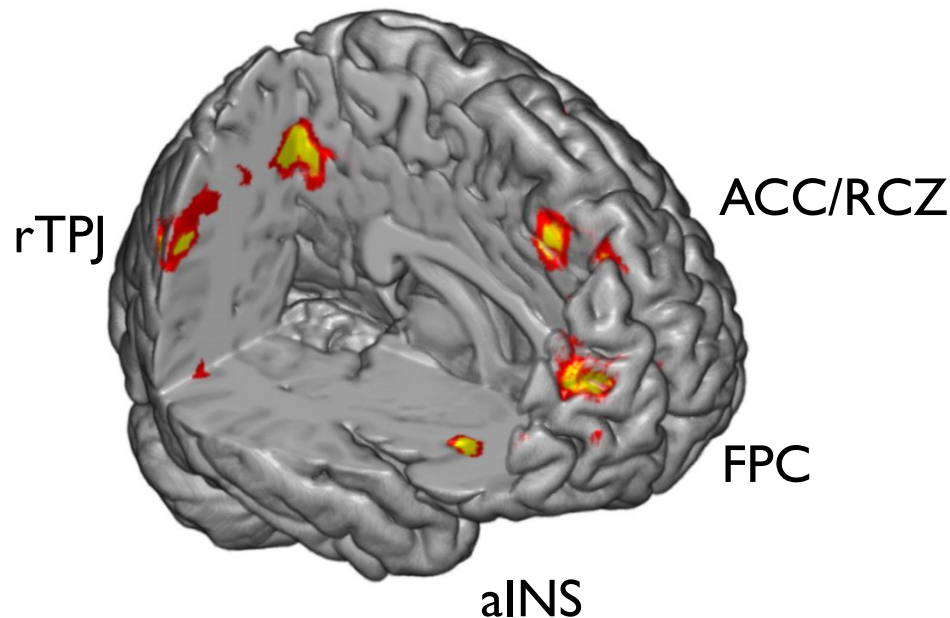
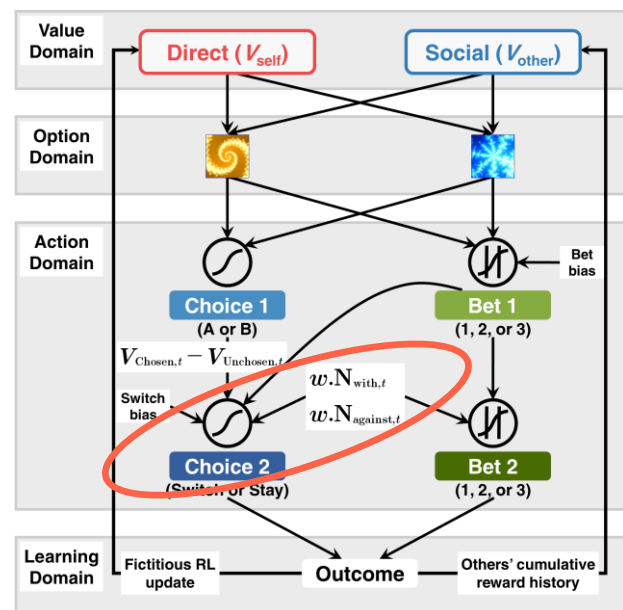


# Conflicting **social** information and action **adjustment**

Instantaneous  
social info

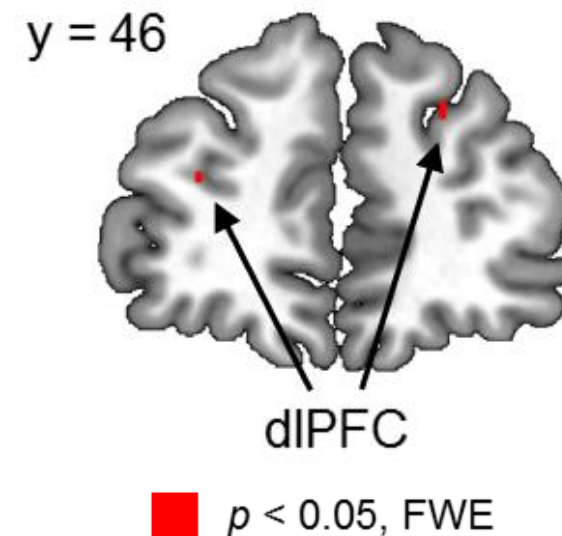
2<sup>nd</sup> choice

(Switch > Stay)



w. N<sub>against</sub>

■  $p < 0.001$   
■  $p < 0.0001$

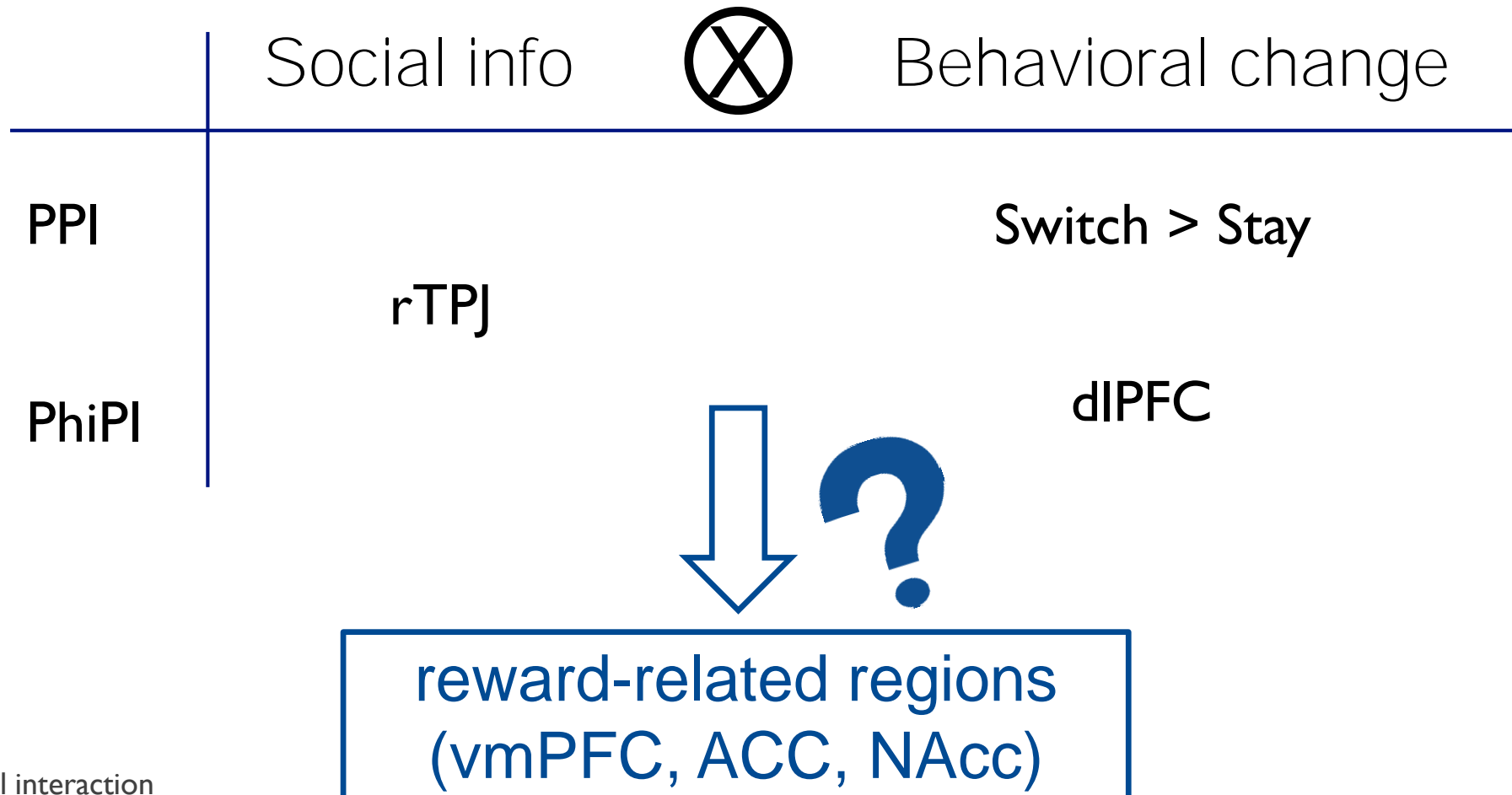


Klucharev, et al., 2009; Berns et al., 2010;  
Tomlin et al., 2013; Park et al., 2017

Cools et al., 2002; O'Doherty et al., 2003;  
Gläscher et al., 2009

# How do these regions **interact**?

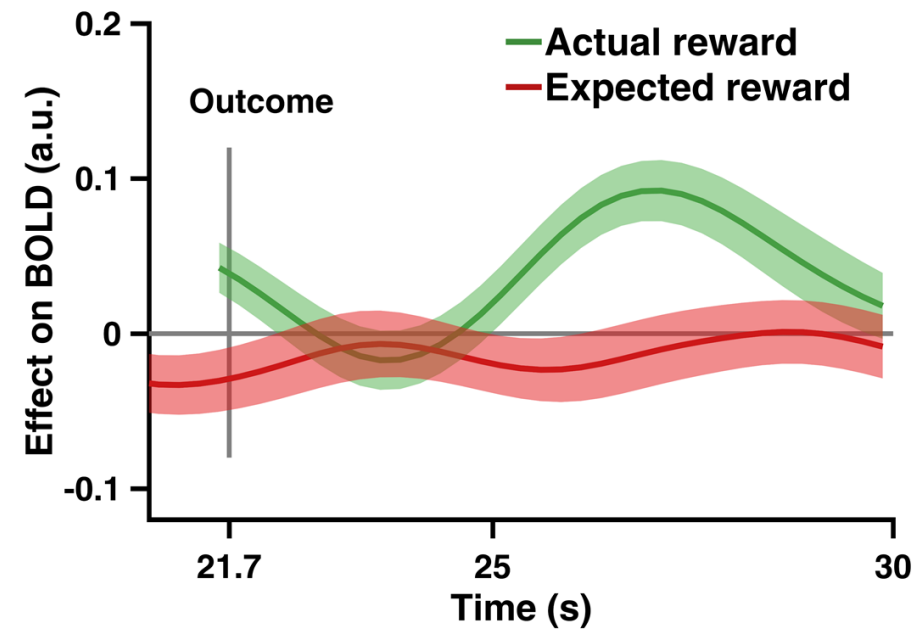
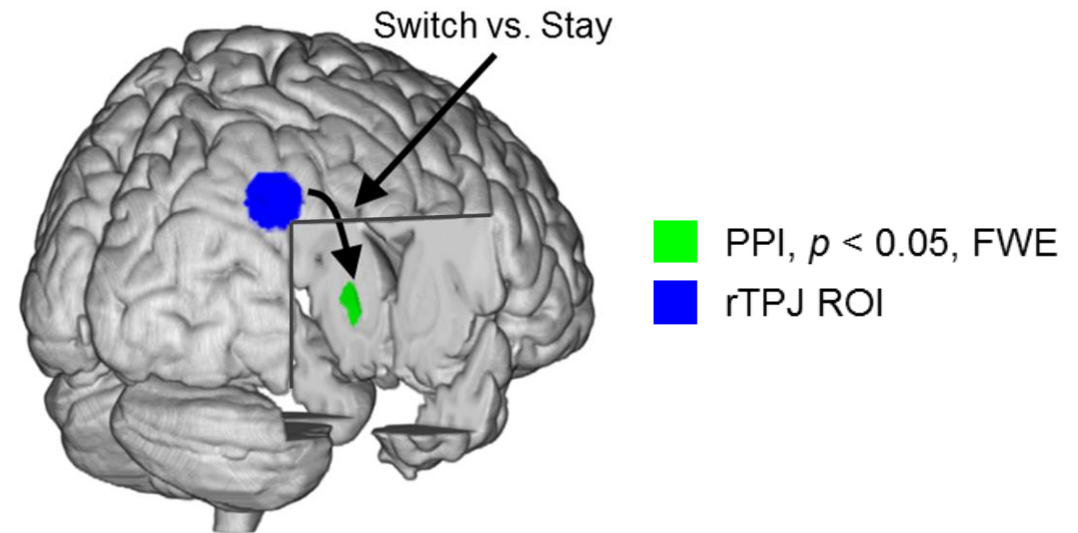
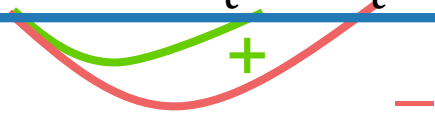
Whether / how behavioral adjustment modulates the functional link between the brain's **social hub** and **reward hub**?



# PPI reveals social prediction error

Prediction error:

$$PE = R_t - V_t$$





# PPI reveals social prediction error

Social prediction error:

$$SPE = \text{Agr}_t - \Phi(\text{Vdiff})_t$$

+

-

Actual  
agreement

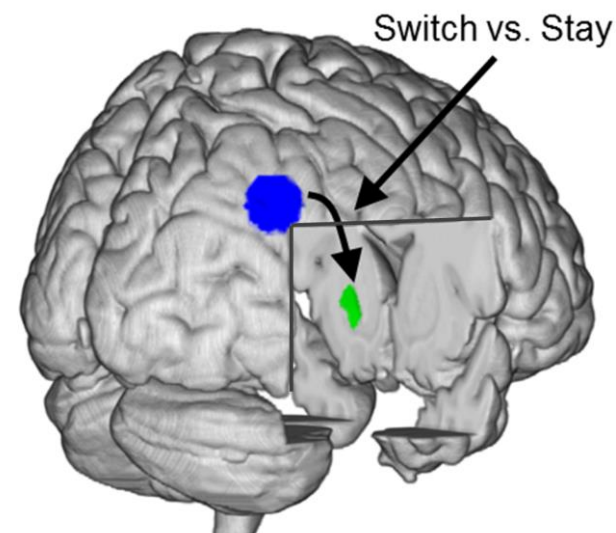
Expected  
agreement

SPE

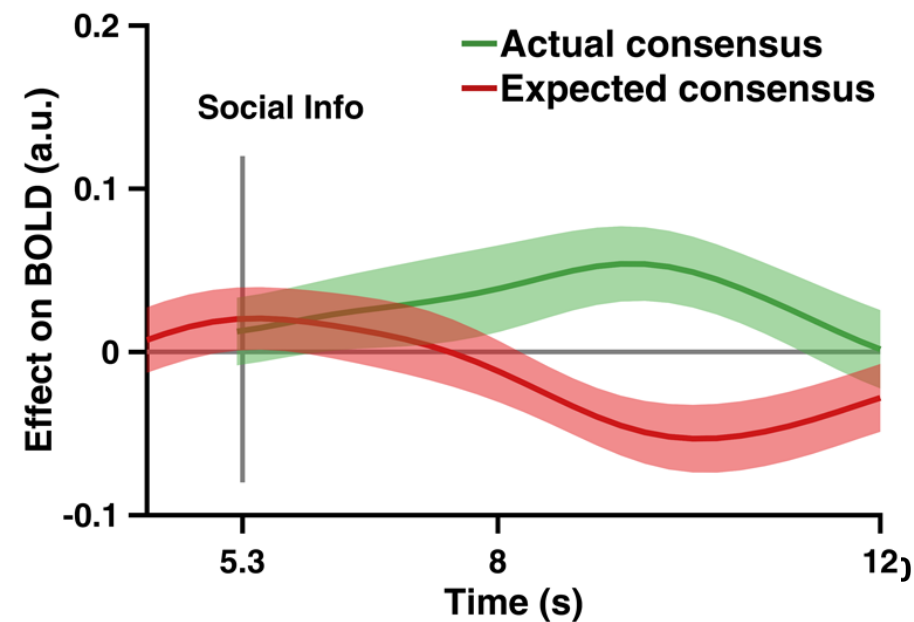
Correlation (r)

1.0  
0.5  
0.0  
-0.5  
-1.0

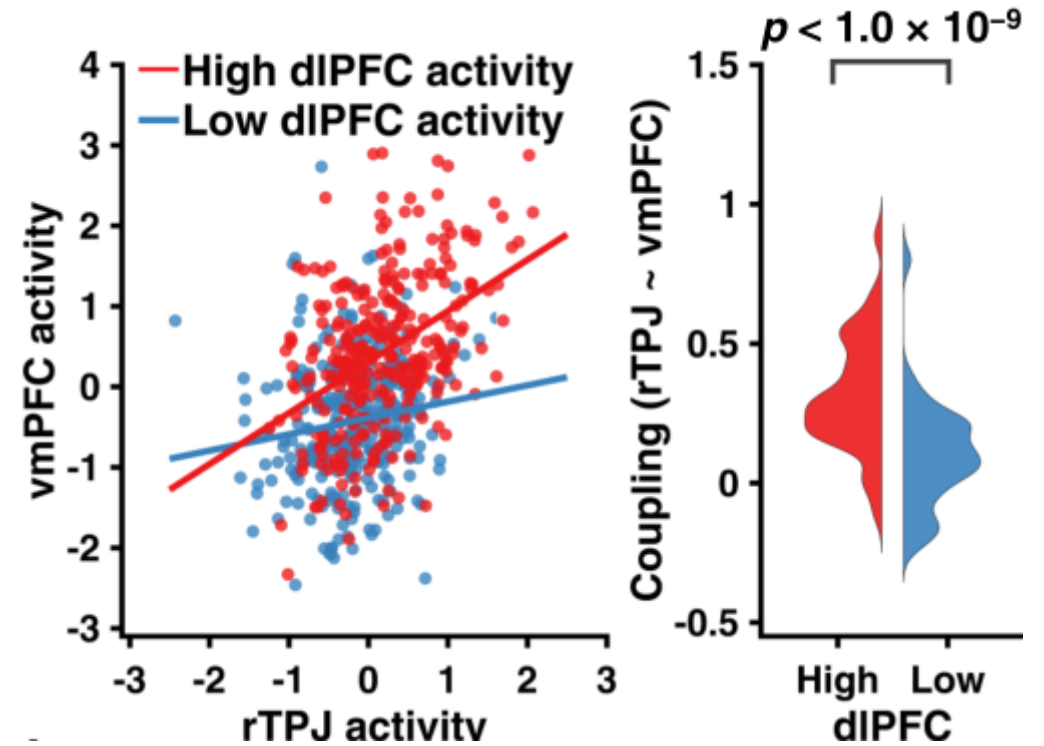
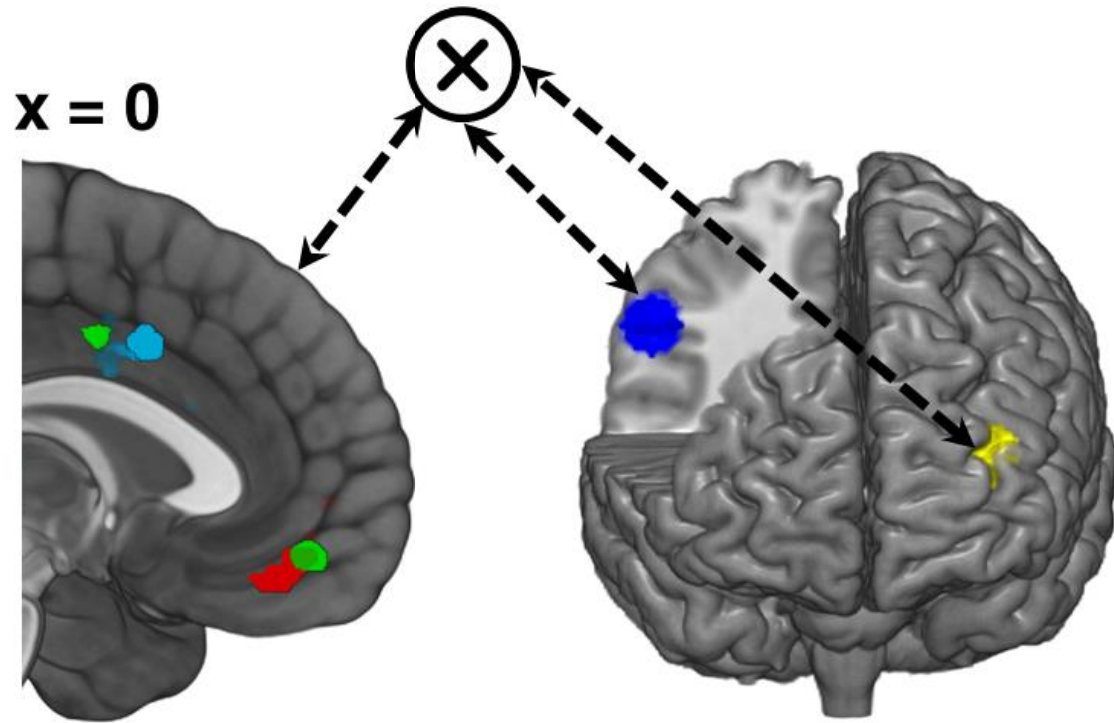
$$\Phi(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$$



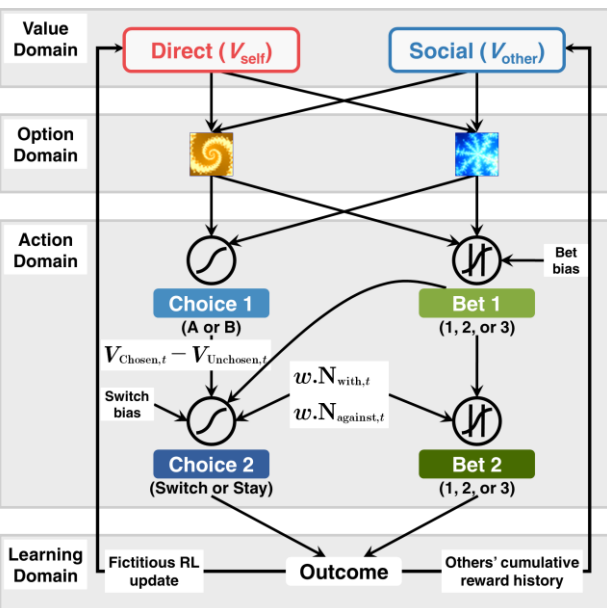
PPI,  $p < 0.05$ , FWE  
rTPJ ROI



# Functional connectivity (PhiPI)



# A network of social decision-making



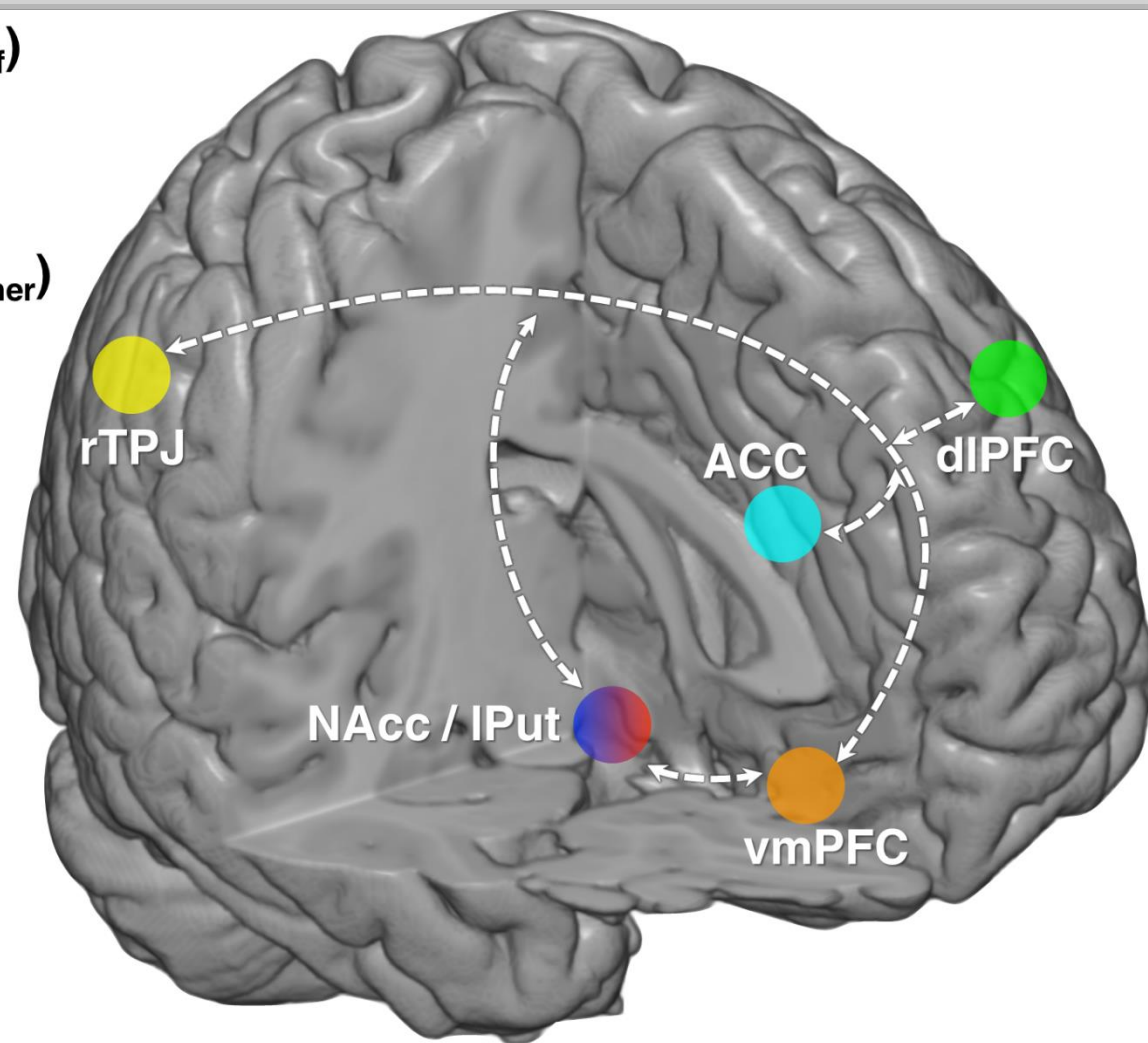
● Direct learning ( $V_{self}$ )

● Social learning ( $V_{other}$ )

● RPE / SPE

● Instantaneous social influence

● Switch vs. Stay



# Summary



Social influence affects both choice and bet (computational).

Instantaneous social information predicts behavioral adjustment (algorithmic).

Learning is a weighted combination of direct learning and observational learning (algorithmic).



These dissociable value signals are respectively represented in vmPFC and ACC (implemental).

Connectivity reveals a network of social influence in decision-making (implemental).

# Acknowledgement



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## A brain network supporting social influences in human decision-making

Lei Zhang, Jan P. Gläser

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/551614>

Abstract

Full Text

Info/History

Metrics

Preview PDF

### Abstract

Humans learn from their own trial-and-error experience and from observing others. However, it remains unanswered how brain circuits compute expected values when direct learning and social learning coexist in an uncertain environment. Using a multi-

*Science Advances*, in press

Preprint:

<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/551614v3>

# Shameless self promotion



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<https://lei-zhang.net/>



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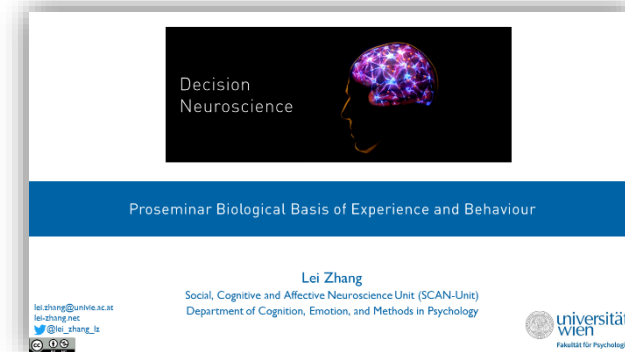
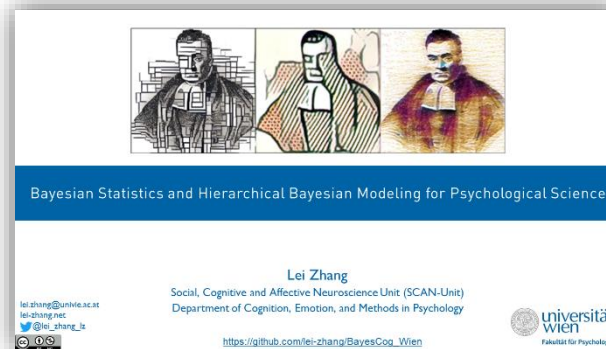
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## Using reinforcement learning models in social neuroscience: frameworks, pitfalls and suggestions of best practices

Lei Zhang,<sup>1,2</sup> Lukas Lengersdorff,<sup>1,2</sup> Nace Mikus,<sup>1</sup> Jan Gläscher,<sup>3</sup> and Claus Lamm<sup>1,2,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Neuropsychopharmacology and Biopsychology Unit, Department of Cognition, Emotion, and Methods in Psychology, Faculty of Psychology, University of Vienna, Vienna 1010, Austria, <sup>2</sup>Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience Unit, Department of Cognition, Emotion, and Methods in Psychology, Faculty of Psychology, University of Vienna, Vienna 1010, Austria, <sup>3</sup>Institute of Systems Neuroscience, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg 20246, Germany and <sup>4</sup>Vienna Cognitive Science Hub, University of Vienna, Vienna 1010, Austria

<https://academic.oup.com/scan/article/15/6/695/5864690>

## RESEARCH

### Revealing Neurocomputational Mechanisms of Reinforcement Learning and Decision-Making With the hBayesDM Package

Woo-Young Ahn<sup>1</sup>, Nathaniel Haines<sup>1</sup>, and Lei Zhang<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

<sup>2</sup>Institute for Systems Neuroscience, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany

**Keywords:** reinforcement learning, decision-making, hierarchical Bayesian modeling, model-based fMRI

[https://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/full/10.1162/CPSY\\_a\\_00002](https://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/full/10.1162/CPSY_a_00002)

# Thank you

Presented by  
Lei Zhang