



Seminario Senne Braem, Universidad de Gante

16/03/2022

Actividades Culturales

Seminar Senne Braem, Ghent University

Date and time: April 1st at 12:00

Place: Sala de Grados, Facultad de Psicología

Title: The affective evaluation of cognitive control

Abstract: We often get the advice to either "use our brain" or "follow our heart": This distinction between cognition and emotion is widely embedded in our everyday lives and popular culture, and has inspired many philosophers, psychologists, and neuroscientists alike. In this talk, I will present work inspired by reinforcement learning frameworks that emphasize shared, rather than separate or interacting, (neural) mechanisms of cognition and emotion, and focus on the affective signatures of cognitive control. Using behavioral, fMRI, EEG, and pupillometry measures, I will present different studies that show how effortful cognitive control processes are often evaluated as aversive (e.g., "thinking hurts"), but also that successfully overcoming these aversive cognitive obstacles can generate an inherent feeling of reward, and help us reappraise these negative feelings associated with cognitive control.

