



On the 10th of June 2022, the first Pscience Day (Psychology Science Day; www.affectiveneuro.at/pscienceday) of the Institute of Psychology at the University of Innsbruck, organized by Prof. Dr Carmen Morawetz took place at the Centre for Chemistry and Biomedicine (CCB). The Pscience Day is an initiative to promote scientific exchange for students of the Department of Psychology at the University of Innsbruck. Students at all levels (BA, MA, PhD, PostDoc) can present their research projects to other colleagues and interested parties in the form of poster presentations, Blitz Talks or a Science Slam. We thereby aim to increase the visibility of student research projects. The Pscience Day serves the purpose of scientific exchange and the joy of research and offers a unique opportunity for inspiration and networking. We invited Prof. Dr Stefan Bode from the University of Melbourne (www.dlab.unimelb.edu.au) and Visiting Fellow at the University College London to provide a keynote lecture entitled “Do you really need to know? The value of non-instrumental information”.

In his talk, Prof. Bode discussed recent work showing that humans intrinsically value obtaining information, even if this information is costly and cannot be used to maximize rewards (i.e. the information is “non-instrumental”). He demonstrated that people are willing to accept different types of costs for obtaining early non-instrumental information (e.g., about the outcome of a random lottery) and that the willingness to pay for this information depends on how valuable the early resolution of uncertainty is for individual decision-makers. The talk will also discuss the role of agency over choosing one’s own lottery for subsequent decisions to obtain non-instrumental information and how the prospect of non-instrumental information availability impacts risk-taking in gambling decisions. Finally, the talk showed how the neurocognitive mechanisms underlying information valuation are linked to neural networks involved in value and conflict processing.

About 70 students and researchers attended the PScience Day. In total 23 posters, 14 blitz talks and 5 science slams were presented.

BritInn supported Prof. Bode’s visit with a travel fund!

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