



Herzliche Einladung zum Vortrag:

Prof. Dr. Salomon Israel (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Oxytocin and vasopressin in the modulation of human social behavior

Donnerstag, 29.11.2018, 18 c.t. – 20 Uhr

Konferenzraum - Lehrstuhl für Biologische und Differentielle
Psychologie,
Stefan-Meier-Str. 8, 3. OG

ABSTRACT

A key element of human evolutionary success is the capacity to cooperate with groups of unrelated individuals in order to accomplish tasks otherwise unachievable on our own. Underlying human cooperative behaviors are a bevy of social cognitions and motivations, including the drive to approach others, the ability to decode emotional states and empathize with others, and the capacity to monitor and regulate cognitive and physiological responses to situations in which our social standing is threatened. Here, I will present findings linking these interrelated skills to the neuropeptide hormones oxytocin and vasopressin. Using both genetic association studies and studies employing intranasal administration of these hormones, I will show how oxytocin and vasopressin act as key regulators of people's altruistic tendencies, levels of empathy, and response to social stressors.

VITA

Salomon was born in Iran and grew up in California where he received his BSc in Cognitive Science from UCLA. Shortly thereafter he moved to Israel where he received an MA and a PhD from the Hebrew University. After conducting a postdoctoral fellowship at Duke University, he returned to Israel where he is now a faculty member in the psychology department. His research is multidisciplinary and integrates methods from experimental economics, molecular genetics, neuroendocrinology, and life-course epidemiology to arrive at a better understanding of the psychological and biological processes underpinning individual differences in human social cognition and behavior. Two current areas of interest are the role of the hormones oxytocin and vasopressin in regulating social behavior and the influence of personality differences on physical health and well being. For his research he has been awarded several prizes, including a Rothschild postdoctoral fellowship, an Alon fellowship for returning faculty, and most recently a designation as a 'Rising Star' from the Association of Psychological Science.