

„Gießener Abendgespräche Kognition und Gehirn“

Mittwochs, 18 bis 20 Uhr, Raum: F9

30.11.2011

When We Feel We're Biased: Implicit Conflict Detection During Thinking

Dr. Wim de Neys (Universität Toulouse)

Human thinking is often biased by erroneous intuitions and stereotypical beliefs. We all know how negative stereotypes about minority groups can distort an employer's hiring policy, for example. However, the exact nature of this bias is poorly understood. A key question for any theory of reasoning, decision-making, and social cognition is whether or not people detect that their intuitive inferences conflict with more normative considerations. In my talk I'll present an overview of recent neuroscientific studies that indicate that reasoners are actually pretty good at detecting the presence of such conflicts. Findings suggest that although people have little conscious conflict awareness, they do seem to have an implicit "gut feeling" informing them that their stereotypical responses are not fully warranted. Additional developmental data indicates that preadolescents lack such implicit conflict feelings. I'll discuss some intriguing implications for the debate on human rationality.

Wim De Neys

Laboratoire CLLE (CNRS, Université de Toulouse)

Maison de la Recherche

5, allée A. Machado

31058 Toulouse Cedex 9

France