ELSC Seminar: Moshe Bar

May 21, 2015

On the topic of "Exploration vs. Exploitation in The Proactive Brain"

ELSC cordially invite you

to the lecture given by:

Moshe Bar
Gonda Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center, Bar-Ilan University

On the topic of
"Exploration vs. Exploitation in The Proactive Brain"

The lecture will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2015
at 17:00, at ELSC: Silverman Bldg., 3rd Wing, 6th Floor, Edmond J. Safra Campus

Light refreshments at 16:45
Abstract:

It is argued that the brain is a proactive organ, striving to know what is next. This proclivity for constant predictions creates an interesting paradox: we want to minimize uncertainty with predictions, but we also need to approach novelty and learn so that we can increase the pool of scenarios on which we are able to generate predictions in the future. These two conflicting demands imply different states of mind. There are states when we want to learn, and states when we prefer to exploit the certainty of a predictable environment; our minds sometime seek to maximize gathering of novel information, and in other times it prefers to minimize surprise. This constant tension between exploration and exploitation modes will be illustrated through a discussion of top-down and bottom-up processing, mental simulations, and the influence of load. Implications to topics such as creativity and mood will be proposed.

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