Didier Grandjean

Université de Genève

The triad of desire, appraisal, and habits: towards a neuroscientific perspective

Abstract: The appraisal theories in emotion have proposed that different kinds of appraisal are essential in emotion elicitation and differentiation, opening the possibility to characterize interindividual bias patterns and different probabilities to feel specific emotions. Desires might be conceptualized as overlearned stabilized patterns of expectations and related rewards, constituted, at least partially, by these appraisal bias. Recent empirical research have underlined the role of basal ganglia and their functional interactions with frontal regions in the context of habits or overlearned patterns of behavior, being in turn related to specific expected rewards. I will address these concepts in the light of recent research in neuroscience in animals and humans.