

# VALUES AND EMPATHY ACROSS SOCIAL BARRIERS:

## A NEUROCOGNITIVE APPROACH TO FAIRNESS

November 21-22, 2008

Fundació “La Caixa”

The Science Museum of the Caixa Foundation

Barcelona, Spain

[www.nyas.org/valconf](http://www.nyas.org/valconf)



Dear Colleague,

This November, international scientific leaders will convene for the first **Barcelona Social Brain Conference**, an exciting 2-day event featuring 6 plenary sessions, 2 panel discussions, and poster presentations on the interdisciplinary field of social neuroscience.

Through a neuroscientific lens, participants will examine the human qualities of empathy, sacred values, and cooperation, and focus on the ways in which what they learn can be used to understand human conflicts. Highlights will include:

**Session I:** From animosity to empathy: Neuroimaging studies on the building blocks of fairness

**Session II:** Genetic markers for good and bad cooperators: A biological approach to fairness in economic exchanges

**Session III:** Sacred values: Anthropological and psychological perspectives on fairness in social conflicts

Please join us for an in-depth examination and discussion of the brain's role in human behavior and our interactions with others.

We look forward to seeing you in Barcelona this November.

Best regards,

*Kathy Granger, PhD*

The New York Academy of Sciences  
New York, USA



*Oscar Vilarroya, PhD*

Catedra UAB "el cervell social"  
Barcelona, Spain



*Joan Comella*

Fundació Catalana per a la Recerca  
i la Innovació,  
Barcelona, Spain



*Arcadi Navarro, PhD*

Genetic Basis of Cooperative  
Commercial Behaviors  
Meeting Organization,  
European Science Foundation



## ABOUT OUR SPONSORS

### The New York Academy of Sciences

Founded in 1817, the New York Academy of Sciences is an independent, nonprofit organization with more than 25,000 members in 140 countries. The Academy's mission is to advance scientific knowledge, positively impact the major global challenges of society with solutions that are science-based, and increase the number of scientifically informed individuals in society at large.  
[www.nyas.org](http://www.nyas.org)

### el Cerebell Social

The "Social Brain" Chair is a centre for analysis and public action in the field of social neuroscience associated to the Department of Psychiatry and Legal Medicine of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), Spain. The Chair's aims consist of familiarizing society with the new and emerging field of social neuroscience, while promoting the setting up of new research projects related to topical areas at the cutting edge of social neuroscience, such as neuroimaging.  
[www.elcervellsocial.net](http://www.elcervellsocial.net)

### Fundació Catalana per a la Recerca i la Innovació

FCRI is a private non-profitmaking institution whose basic goal is to contribute to articulating all players of the Catalan Research and Innovation System and recognizing the important role of science. FCRI supports and improves quality R&D activities and aims to attract and retain scientific talent, as well as to transfer research outcomes to business as an instrument for enhancing innovation and competitiveness of companies. It also aims to encourage and disseminate science and technology. FCRI Board of Trustees consists of representatives from the Catalan Autonomous Government and industry.  
[www.fcricat](http://www.fcricat)

### ESF-TECT (GENCOOP meeting)

The European Science Foundation (ESF) is an association of 77 Member Organizations devoted to scientific research in 30 European countries. The ESF provides a common platform to advance European research and to explore new directions for research at the European level. Through its activities, the ESF serves the needs of the European research community in a global context. The Evolution of Trade and Cooperation (TECT) is an ESF Program to explore new research perspectives on the evolution of cooperation and trading, through empirical, theoretical and modeling methods, on an array of organisms, including to human societies. The Genetic Basis of Cooperation (GENCOOP) is one of the main issues in the TECT Program.

[www.esf.org](http://www.esf.org)

[www.nyas.org/valconf](http://www.nyas.org/valconf)

## SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



***Scott Atran, PhD, University of Michigan***

Presidential Scholar, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY; Professor of Anthropology, University of Michigan; Directeur de Recherche, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris (Director of Research, CNRS). Dr. Atran has extensive experience in war torn environments, such as the Middle East, where religion, culture and politics play a significant role in influencing rational choice. Dr. Atran's understanding of anthropology, as well as cognitive and evolutionary psychology, has influenced his research into the roots of suicide terrorism.



***Arcadi Navarro, PhD, Universitat Pompeu Fabra***

Researcher and Professor of the Evolutionary Biology Unit, Departament de Ciències Experimentals i de la Salut, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain. Making use of bioinformatics tools, Dr. Navarro studies evolutionary processes such as natural selection, cooperation or recombination focusing in the understanding of the biology of genomes at evolutionary, molecular and biomedical level. In recent years, Dr. Navarro has been examining questions related to chromosomal evolution, genetic evolution, genome dynamics, genetic speciation and genetic architecture of complex diseases.



***Kevin Ochsner, PhD, Columbia University***

Assistant Professor of Psychology, Columbia University. Dr. Ochsner's research interests include the psychological and neural processes involved in emotion, pain, self-regulation, self perception, and person perception. His studies span the methodologies of social psychology and cognitive neuroscience.



***Adolf Tobeña, PhD, Autonomous University of Barcelona***

Professor of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology, Director of the Department of Psychiatry and Forensic Medicine, Autonomous University of Barcelona and Visiting Professor at the Universities of London, Groningen, Venezia and Tel Aviv. Dr. Tobeña's main research focuses on the neurobiology of fear/anxiety. Within the framework of evolutionary biology he has written essays on the neuropsychological basis of lethal altruism (e.g. kamikaze actions and other extreme sacrifices) and on the temperamental characteristics of suicidal terrorists.

- 8:30 am – 9:30 am: **Registration and Poster Set-up**
- 9:30 am – 9:45 am: **Welcome Message**
- *Oscar Vilarroya, PhD*, el Cervell Social, Barcelona, Spain
  - *Joan Comella*, Fundació Catalana per a la Recerca, Barcelona, Spain
  - *Ellis Rubinstein*, The New York Academy of Sciences, USA
  - *Rüdiger Klein, PhD*, European Science Foundation
- 9:45 am – 10:30 am: **Keynote Lecture**
- *Adolf Tobeña, PhD*, Autonomous University of Barcelona
- 10:30 am – 12:00 pm: **Session I:** From animosity to empathy: Neuroimaging studies on the building blocks of fairness  
Chair: *Kevin Ochsner, PhD*
- *Kevin Ochsner, PhD*, Columbia University, USA
  - *Elizabeth Phelps, PhD*, New York University, USA
  - *Susan Fiske, PhD*, Princeton University, USA
- 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm: **Lunch and Poster Viewing**
- 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm: **Session II:** Genetic markers for good and bad cooperators: A biological approach to fairness in economic exchanges  
Chair: *Arcadi Navarro, PhD*
- *Arcadi Navarro, PhD*, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain
  - *Herbert Gintis, PhD*, Central European University, Hungary
  - *David Cesarini*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
- 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm: **Coffee Break**
- 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm: **Session III:** Sacred values: Anthropological perspectives on fairness in social conflicts  
Chair: *Scott Atran, PhD*
- *Scott Atran, PhD*, University of Michigan, USA
  - *Mark van Vugt, PhD*, University of Kent, UK
  - *Lord John Alderdice, MD*, Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
- 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm: **Panel Discussion**  
Chair: *Kevin Ochsner, PhD*
- *Elizabeth Phelps, PhD*, New York University, USA
  - *Herbert Gintis, PhD*, Central European University, Hungary
  - *Lord John Alderdice, MD*, Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
- 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm: **Evening Reception and Poster Session**



## DAY 2: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>

9:00 am – 9:45 am: **Registration**

9:45 am – 12:00 pm: **Session I:** From animosity to empathy: Neuroimaging studies on the building blocks of fairness  
Chair: *Kevin Ochsner, PhD*

- *Ethan Kross, PhD*, University of Michigan, USA
- *Tania Singer, PhD*, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- *Sarah-Jayne Blakemore, PhD*, University College, London, UK
- Short data blitz talks selected from abstracts

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm: **Lunch and Poster Viewing**

1:00 pm – 2:45 pm: **Session II:** Genetic markers for good and bad cooperators: A biological approach to fairness in economic exchanges  
Chair: *Arcadi Navarro, PhD*

- *Richard Ebstein, PhD*, Hebrew University and S. Herzog Memorial Hospital, Israel
- *Molly Crockett*, Department of Experimental Psychology, Behavioral and Clinical Neuroscience Institute, University of Cambridge
- Short data blitz talks selected from abstracts

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm: **Coffee Break**

3:15 pm – 5:00 pm: **Session III:** Sacred values: Anthropological perspectives on fairness in social conflicts  
Chair: *Scott Atran, PhD*

- *Jeremy Ginges, PhD*, University of Michigan, USA
- *Ran Hassin, PhD*, Hebrew University, Jerusalem Israel
- Short data blitz talks selected from abstracts

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm: **Panel Discussion**  
Chair: *Adolf Tobeña, PhD*

- *Tania Singer, PhD*, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- *Richard Ebstein, PhD*, Hebrew University and S. Herzog Memorial Hospital, Israel
- *Jeremy Ginges, PhD*, University of Michigan, USA

6:00 pm: **Closing Statements**

## SPEAKERS

**Lord John Alderdice, MD**, is the leader of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland and sits in the House of Lords as a liberal Democrat. Lord Alderdice brokered the nine years of negotiations that led to the Good Friday Accords and became first speaker of Northern Ireland's Parliament. He has recently negotiated peace in Nepal, was involved in the signing of the Helsinki agreement in Iraq and is working on various political negotiations around the world, most notably in the Middle East. His contribution to peace has been recognized through a number of international awards, including Honorary Citizenship of the City of Baltimore (1991), Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (1997), W A Harriman Award for Democracy (Washington 1998), John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Award (1998), Silver Medal of the Congress of Peru (1999), and the Medal of Honour of the College of Medicine of Peru (1999).

**Dr. Sarah-Jayne Blakemore, PhD**, Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London; Dr. Blakemore specializes in the development of the social brain during adolescence. She will speak about the adolescence susceptibility to developing emotions and attitudes.

**David Cesarini**, Department of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. Cesarini has advanced predetermined theories on genetic heritability in economic behavior making by studying identical and fraternal twins.

**Molly Crockett**, Cambridge Neuroscience, University of Cambridge; Ms. Crockett's research focuses on the neural basis of self-regulation and impulsivity- what brain mechanisms allow us to control our thoughts, feelings and actions? She is investigating self-control from the perspectives of both associative learning theory and neuroeconomics. Ms. Crockett's research aims to enhance our understanding of self-control in the healthy brain in order to inform the development of better treatments for psychopathology.

**Professor Richard P. Ebstein, PhD**, Director of the Scheinfeld Center of Human Genetics for the Social Sciences, Hebrew University and Head of the Research Laboratory, S. Herzog Memorial Hospital, Jerusalem, Israel; Professor Ebstein studies the molecular and genetic factors which contribute to psychological disorders such as substance abuse, anorexia, autism and schizophrenia.

**Dr. Susan Fiske, PhD**, Eugene Higgins Professor of Psychology, Princeton University; Dr. Fiske investigates emotional prejudices such as pity, contempt, pride and envy. Her recent imaging work concentrates on the tendency to objectify groups based on pre defined stereotypes. She has coauthored the highly regarded text book *Social Cognition*.

**Dr. Jeremy Ginges, PhD**, Department of Psychology, New School for Social Research, University of Michigan; Dr. Ginges studies the psychological dimension of cultural and political conflicts. An example of this work is the influence that frequency of mosque attendance versus frequency of prayer has on an individual's tolerance and support for suicide terrorism. The observed increase is attributed to the political influence of religious leaders, rather than the act of devotion.

**Professor Herbert Gintis, PhD**, External Professor, Santa Fe Institute and Professor of Economics, Central European University; Professor Gintis uses data from economic games to study characteristics such as corporate honesty and the effectiveness of punishment in fostering cooperation.

**Dr. Ethan Kross, PhD**, Assistant Professor, University of Michigan; Dr. Kross' research focuses on understanding adaptive and maladaptive mechanisms of emotional processing. He believes that understanding these mechanisms will help individuals who experience emotional trauma cope in everyday life.

**Dr. Elizabeth Phelps, PhD**, New York University; Dr. Phelps is a world expert in the neural bases of social attitudes and social learning. She has published in journals such as *Nature*, *Science* and *Nature Neuroscience*.

**Professor Tania Singer, PhD**, Center for the Study of Social and Neural Systems, University of Zürich; Professor Singer pioneered the first imaging studies of pain empathy and the first study demonstration that the neural signature of empathy varies as a function of cooperation and competition. Her latest studies moves away from healthy populations towards individual with social deficits such as autism spectrum disorder.

**Professor Mark Van Vugt, PhD**, Professor of Social Psychology, Keynes College, University of Kent; Professor Mark Van Vugt's research concentrates on the study of group processes from an evolutionary and social psychology perspective. He is interested in such themes as social dilemmas, altruism, leadership, and intergroup relations. His current research examines the role of gender play in cooperation and competition.

[www.nyas.org/valconf](http://www.nyas.org/valconf)

## ABOUT THIS MEETING

### CONFERENCE LOCATION

Fundació “La Caixa”  
The Science Museum of the  
Caixa Foundation  
Barcelona, Spain

### REGISTRATION

Online: [www.nyas.org/VALconf](http://www.nyas.org/VALconf)  
Tel: (toll free) +1.800.344.6902  
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Mail: NYAS Membership &  
Customer Services Suite  
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Melville, NY, USA 11747-4502

### ACCOMMODATIONS

For more information about accommodations  
near the conference center, please visit:  
[www.nyas.org/pdfs/Barcelona\\_hotels.pdf](http://www.nyas.org/pdfs/Barcelona_hotels.pdf)

### CALL FOR POSTER ABSTRACTS

**Deadline for poster abstract submission is September 20, 2008.** Nine poster abstracts will be selected for travel awards. Awardees will be invited to present their poster abstract as an oral presentation. For more information go to: [www.nyas.org/valconf](http://www.nyas.org/valconf)

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## REGISTRATION FEES AND CATEGORIES

*Early Bird Pricing is available through September 26, 2008.*

Includes breakfasts, lunches, coffee breaks, and reception, plus a one year NYAS membership, and conference proceedings published as a volume of the *Annals of The New York Academy of Sciences*.

	Before Sept 20, 2008	After Sept 20, 2008	On-Site
1. Student/Postdoc/Fellow	\$117 (€80)	\$235 (€160)	\$290 (€200)
2. General Admission	\$190 (€130)	\$365 (€250)	\$440 (€300)

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\* Students receive a one year Student & Postdoc Membership. One year individual membership only applies to non-members, and cannot be used to extend membership for current members.

### CANCELLATION POLICY

Please submit a written cancellation request to [nyasmembership@aip.org](mailto:nyasmembership@aip.org) on or before September 20, 2008 in order to be eligible for a registration refund minus a \$75 cancellation fee. If your written request is received after this deadline, then you will not be eligible for a registration refund.

The New York Academy of Sciences complies with the public accommodation requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the rules and regulations thereof. Please let us know if you will require any assistance during this meeting by contacting +1.212.298.3725.