

WEBINARS

Webinar: Rebecca Saxe discusses imaging of social brain

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Here's how Saxe describes what she will discuss in this webinar:

*Functional imaging of the human brain has been a remarkable and powerful tool for research. It has shed light on the brain regions that support high-level social and moral reasoning in people, giving us insight into how people develop a **'theory of mind,'** — that is, an understanding of their own and others' emotions, needs, intentions and beliefs. Surprisingly, though, **neuroimaging has not been as useful** for investigating the mechanisms that may underlie the social difficulties that accompany autism.*

New methods for analyzing brain imaging data offer a way forward. Called 'multivariate analyses,' they take into account many different variables, such as timing of activity as well as where it takes place in the brain. These tools have the potential to reveal new, relevant details about patterns of neuronal activity in response to certain stimuli. In this seminar, I will discuss both traditional and novel approaches to analyzing brain activity during high-level social reasoning, and how these approaches can and are being successfully applied to study autism and related conditions.