



**University  
of Basel**

Faculty of  
Business and Economics

Faculty of  
Psychology



# **7<sup>th</sup> Bernoulli Lecture for the Behavioral Sciences**

**Towards a Neural Basis for Expected Utility**

**Prof. Dr. Brian Knutson**  
Stanford University, USA



**Tuesday, 16 May, 2017, 18:15–19:45**

Grosser Hörsaal, Bernoullianum, Bernoullistrasse 30, Basel

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## 7th Bernoulli Lecture for the Behavioral Sciences

# Towards a Neural Basis for Expected Utility

Speaker: Brian Knutson, Stanford University, USA

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**The Bernoulli Network for the Behavioral Sciences at the University of Basel is pleased to present the 7<sup>th</sup> Bernoulli Lecture for the Behavioral Sciences, to be given by Dr. Brian Knutson of Stanford University, California. The event takes place at the Bernoullianum of the University of Basel on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 from 18.15 to 19.45. Entrance is free and open to the public.**

### ABSTRACT

Increasing resolution of neuroimaging techniques has allowed investigators to track changes in neural activity not only resulting from, but also in anticipation of choice. This has supported identification of circuits that respond to the magnitude and probability of expected gains and losses, as well as determination of whether their activity can also predict upcoming choice. Even more recent evidence suggests that beyond predicting individual choice, activity in some of these circuits may forecast aggregate choice. Although not a perfect match, these collected findings imply that in less than two decades, researchers are converging on a neural basis for expected utility.

**BRIAN KNUTSON** is Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Stanford University, California. His research focuses on the neural basis of emotional experience and expression. He investigates this topic with a number of methods including self-report, measurement of nonverbal behavior, comparative ethology, psycho-

pharmacology, and functional brain imaging. His long-term goal is to understand the neurochemical and neuroanatomical mechanisms responsible for emotional experience and to explore the implications of these findings for the assessment and treatment of clinical disorders of affect and addiction, as well as economic behavior.

Dr. Knutson has received Young Investigator Awards from the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression, the Association for Behavioral Medicine Research, the American Psychiatric Association, and the New York Academy of Sciences. He received his BA degrees in experimental psychology and comparative religion from Trinity University and his PhD in experimental psychology from Stanford University. He has conducted postdoctoral research in affective neuroscience at the University of California San Francisco and at the US National Institutes of Health.

**The Bernoulli Lecture for the Behavioral Sciences** honors researchers who have contributed significantly to the development of the behavioral sciences, particularly in the fields of Psychology and Economics. The Bernoulli lectures are organized yearly by the **Bernoulli Network for the Behavioral Sciences**, a joint initiative of the Department of Psychology and the Faculty of Business and Economics of the University of Basel, with the aim of fostering interdisciplinary dialogue in the behavioral sciences.