**Information Seeking and Psychopathology**

How do people decide what they want to know? And do those decisions give us clues about people’s mental health? The current project aims to investigate whether information-seeking paterns predict latent psychopathology conditions and affective states. For related work please read our previous paper on this topic <http://affectivebrain.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Valuation-of-knowledge-and-ignorance.pdf>

Primary supervisor: Professor Tali Sharot

Contact: Joseph Marks joseph.marks.14@ucl.ac.uk

**Student suitability**

Priority will be given to students who have:

1. Background in cognitive science, neuroeconomics, decision-making or social/cognitive/affective neuroscience
2. Experience programming in Matlab (or other programming languages), computational modeling

**About the Affective Brain Lab**

The Affective Brain Lab investigates how affect (the experience of emotion) affects human cognition and behaviour in normal brain function and in affective disorders (such as depression and anxiety).

We study how motivation and emotion (generated in response to an internal thought, external reward and punishment, or social interaction) determine our expectations of the future, our everyday decisions, our memories and our ability to learn. By understanding these basic processes we aim to identify ways to encourage behavioural change that enhance well-being.

Our approach is multidisciplinary; We tackle questions traditionally studied by social psychologists and behavioural economists utilizing brain imaging (fMRI), transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), pharmacological manipulations, neuropsychiatric methods, computational models, genetics techniques, and behavioural experiments. We collaborate with psychologists, neuroscientists, psychiatrists and behavioural economists worldwide. Our aim is to offer new insight into brain function in both health and disease.

The practical implications are considerable, including policy formulation to correct for human biases as well as clinical applications in the treatment of brain dysfunction.

For more information about the lab, please visit <http://affectivebrain.com/>