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Adolescent risk taking : the influence of pubertal development, neural responses to rewards and social context

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Propositions

accompanying the public defense of Barbara Braams' dissertation

“Adolescent Risk Taking” on November 17, 2015

1. Neural responses to rewards are related to real life risk taking behavior (this thesis)
2. Ventral striatum responses are flexible and more complex than basic reward signaling (this thesis)
3. Social context is an important factor for ventral striatum responses to rewards (this thesis)
4. Longitudinal designs are a powerful method for investigation of individual differences (this thesis)
5. An important next step to better understand developmental differences is to investigate network connectivity in the developing brain
6. Due to the known influence of social context on adolescent behavior and brain responses, social context should be considered in study designs
7. Risk taking is a normative aspect of adolescence and should not be problematized
8. *“All models are wrong, some are useful”* - (George E.P. Box)
9. Careful communication of scientific knowledge is an important aspect of science. Learning to do so should be part of the PhD curriculum.
10. Cooperation and collaboration take you further than competition