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Got a friend in me? Mapping the neural mechanisms underlying social motivations of adolescents and adults

Schreuders, E.

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Propositions

Accompanying the public defense of Elisabeth Schreuders's dissertation "Got a Friend in Me?"
on 6 March 2019

1. Reward processes and prosocial behavior reflect social motivations. Social motivations play a key role in establishing peer relationships across adolescence. (This thesis)
2. Trait- and state-level reward sensitivity are both important for changes in reward-related nucleus accumbens activity across adolescence. (This thesis)
3. Changes in vicarious reward-related nucleus accumbens activity across adolescence are dependent on the relationship with the beneficiary. (This thesis)
4. The neural processes underlying social interactions with friends are more strongly hard-wired than those underlying social interactions with disliked peers in mid-adolescence. (This thesis)
5. Longitudinal and ecologically valid research designs are essential for developmental psychological research. (This thesis)
6. The value of (anticipated) rewards that result from exploration and novelty seeking changes across adolescence, because adolescents become more skilled in understanding abstract and delayed rewards.
7. Exploration contributes to adolescent development.
8. Both self- and other-regarding goals influence social motivations.
9. The social network is a powerful contributor to human behavior and well-being.
10. Progress of science is best achieved by thinking in terms of challenges and opportunities.
11. Collaboration with others outside one's own organization (e.g., societal institutions, institutions with a different expertise) contributes to scientific progress.
12. Keep things simple whenever possible.