Spring 2015 colloquium

the department of psychology presents...

"The effects of non-invasive brain stimulation on emotion, cognition, and self-control"

Nicholas Kelley, M.A.

Department of Psychology
Texas A&M University

From an evolutionary perspective, the survival of any organism is contingent on systems of approach and avoidance. One brain region that differentiates approach from avoidance is the frontal cortex where activity is asymmetrically related to motivational directionality. Greater left than right frontal cortical activity has been related to approach motivation whereas greater right than left frontal cortical activity has been related to avoidance motivation or inhibition. Using non-invasive brain stimulation, four experiments tested this motivational hypothesis of frontal brain asymmetry, finding support for a causal link between left frontal asymmetry and approach motivation while casting doubt on the relationship between right frontal asymmetry and avoidance motivation. Instead the results suggest that relative right frontal cortical activity may reflect increases in self-control of impulses more generally.

02.25.15 Wednesday 3:30-4:30 pm PSY154