Delight, Desire and Dread: Limbic Brain Generators

The brain has different mechanisms to generate 'liking' and 'wanting' for the same reward. Yet the same brain circuitry may help generate both wanting and fear (nucleus accumbens with inputs from prefrontal cortex, amygdala and mesolimbic dopamine). This talk will address such dissociations and convergence in affective brain mechanisms. Topics include how pleasure is generated by hedonic hotspot circuits in deep limbic structures, incentive salience and 'wanting', how brain circuits flip from generating desire to dread, how conscious awareness relates to core affects, and applications to understanding addiction and other disorders.

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