Speaker: Sarah Tashjian, Postdoctoral Scholar, Mobbs lab and Camerer Group

Title: Safety computing: Threat- and self-oriented evaluation

Abstract: Recognizing safety has broad importance for human behavior, but little is known about how the brain computes safety beyond Pavlovian extinction. My research seeks to identify the neural and psychological mechanisms underlying safety computing. In this talk, I will present a theoretical model of safety computing and accompanying empirical evidence that self- and threat-oriented safety information are processed in distinct neural systems. Computational models reveal stimuli are differentially weighted during safety decisions depending on safety orientation. I will conclude by arguing that understanding self-referential safety processes can improve treatments for safety deficits in psychopathology.