

Decision Processes Colloquia

Monday, April 7th, 2025

Where: JMHH G50

When: 12:00 – 1:20 pm

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Studying Collective Intelligence through Integrative Experiments

ABSTRACT:

Abstract: The dominant paradigm of experimental social and behavioral science views an experiment as a test of a theory, where the theory is assumed to generalize beyond the experiment's specific conditions. But in reality, the process of integrating and reconciling findings from many different experiments conducted in different settings happens either inefficiently or not at all. I will outline an approach that effectively inverts the usual sequence of social scientific reasoning, starting first with the question of generalization ("over what domain/situations do I want my theory to apply?"), then conducting the relevant experiments and analysis, and only then interpreting the results in terms of existing (or new) theory. I will go over how to apply the integrative experiment design approach with examples from my research on collaboration and cooperation.

