Human behavior and health are strongly influenced by social factors. My research aims at identifying the brain mechanisms that mediate social context effects on affect, decision-making, and health outcomes. I will present findings from recent behavioral and fMRI studies that demonstrate how pain experience and physiological responses to pain are altered by social information, and how evaluative social feedback impacts self-perception and feelings about the self—in healthy and socially anxious individuals. I will further discuss current work on the development of brain-based biomarkers for food and drug craving, delay discounting, and how social influence may alter those processes.

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The colloquium lectures of this semester take place online!
Thursday, April 15 2021; 3 p.m.