

# Valuation, Association and Decision Making

## The Model of Credition, Graz, 2014

### Summery

The topic of valuation did not get specific attention, though, of course it plays its role in decision making, meaning that valuation was indirectly touched upon, but not specifically. Rüdiger touched upon it through the notion of judgment. Judgment, while based upon or related to different mental and physical actions is based upon meaning recognition, perspective taking and these mental actions correlate with increased neural activity in the medial frontal cortex. Hence, judgment connects to decision making through valuation. Credition correlates with the lateral frontal cortex.

It seems that this conference circled around decision making, which is of course crucial for credition.

### *The role of oxytocin (the effect of) for decision making (Beate).*

What we learned, I believe, is that oxytocin might enhance positive behaviour, reduce stress, improve social perception and social memory, which in turn might lead to improved empathy. But as with everything, there is also another side of the coin – oxytocin might also enhance envy, Schade Freude, and group favourism. I am not saying that oxytocin is the cause of the growing group (ethical group f.ex.) favourism we witness today, but it seems to play, perhaps in relation with the environment, personal -, cultural – and religious conditions, an important role for decision making, for good or worse. It connects to credition in a basic and unconscious or at least un-reflected choice of Babs.

### *The role of microbiome for decision making by Gabriella.*

The lesson we learned here is that bacteria is good for us, (mostly), stop washing your vegetables. Microbiome is a network, underlying basic or elementary decision making. The microbiome does what it has to do, the more of them the better the results. But it also shows us the connectivity of life, on an individual manner as well as on a more global manner. The individual manner starts already at the bacteria's own level, then their own population and further to other microorganisms and finally to their hosts. The hosts are in turn also connected to themselves, others, etc. Microbiome relates to credition in a similar way as oxytocin, namely, unconsciously, basically. But it does not have the same effects on human behaviour, rather it effects the human will, which of course influences how we, and what we decide. Clearly, what decisions we make differ from when we feel good or not so good.

### *Biological coding by Gennaro.*

It seems that there are no functions without codes and these codes are fixed, cannot be changed, at least not in their own terms. Only the relations amongst the terms can be changed. Adding to this that the mind is seen as a function of biological/neurological functions, it seems that the mind does not have much power of itself, except for the ability to map the

situation at hand and to reflect on possible operations. Once done, the mind returns this information to the brain functions in order for these to act in an adequate way. In relation to credition, this means that we at least, mentally, can change some terms and manage some codes before deciding upon whether or not a particular Bab is OK.

***Gaussian and Planckian distribution in brain processes by Sung.***

New terms were introduced: gnergy, wavicles or quons, qualisign, sinsign and legisigns. While the term credition is linked to theology, these terms are linked to biology, physics and semiotics, respectively. We learned that a sign is a very complex structure. It produces representamen, which are interpreted by the interpretant in an ongoing process providing information to be controlled. Perhaps a Bab could be understood as a sign. However, it seems that information by itself (understood as the ability to control) is not enough and neither is energy (understood as the ability to work or act). They become meaningful only when combined in the sense of then becoming controlled action (or work).

***The role of emotions (several contributors).***

We learned about the importance of the working memory, which leads to the freedom of space of action, which leads to the notion of free will (I will return to this later). Also we learned about the importance of information processing, and of emotional reasoning. The role of emotions seems to be quite important for why we make the decisions we make. Lluís talked about automatic and reflective rational management for example. Emotions often have the tendency to take over our rational reflections. Needless to say that the topic of emotions is crucial for credition and suggestible a topic to be continued.

***Free will: to be or not to be by Lluís and Helmut.***

The philosophical question or problem of free will has followed philosophers all from the start and is yet not answered or solved. Do we have free will? And if we have free will, to what extent? To what extent do we make our own decisions? We have seen that there are biological conditions that, be it in silence, guide our decision making. But humans hope to go beyond cognition and emotion to be free. For the project of credition, whether or not we have true free will remains to be an important inquiry.

***Formal and personal language by Javier.***

The interesting question is, I think, who makes the best decisions, the computer or the human being? One could say that sometimes it is best to relay on the computer, other times it is not. Still, the question is who creates (programs) these computers and how? Can we always trust the computer program; can we always trust that this program will make the correct decisions? If one programs a computer to learn (by e.g. neural networking) what exactly will the computer learn and what will be the output? In the end, unless we have a real robot-human war, it is the human being who decides. This teaches us also something about the role of possessing power. In relation to credition, the power of the mega-Bab.

All the topic above have to do with its roles FOR decision making and hence credition. But there were also topic showing the role of credition FOR the subject matter. These were: the role of credition for the tuning function (Angel), credition related to action, the role credition plays in mental models and ideologies (Richard), for deception and lies (Salvatore) for mental scripts and schemes (Gennaro), for delusion (Christian) and addiction (David). Another important topic for credition was the experience meaningful coincidences. Obviously, while credition plays a role for such subject matters, these in turn play a role for credition.

### ***What next?***

There are of course several possible topics to discuss. Just to name some, time aspects, does Wittgenstein's idea of private language add some information, since emotions are important, what is the role of the limbic system (the role of the amygdala was already named by Beate and David). What is the role of genetic heritage, (e.g. one-egged twins), and how strong is the influence of culture, religion? (The social dimension was touched upon by Yvan).

Note from Yvan:

The main message of my presentation is that the issue of creditions, and especially its being a process and the stabilizing (attitude) and modulating (personality) functions of credition, may be very relevant for the (anthropological) issues of self-identity and culture. Indeed, self-identity – understood through M. Jeannerod's notion of "narrative self" is mainly made up out of the subject's "system of beliefs". Also culture may be understood again as a "system of beliefs" at the intersubjective social dimension. Secondly, I would recommend including more firmly the social dimension in the research of credition.

Note from Javier

Related to the whole conference: I have enjoyed the variety of insights connected with the structure of credition. Nevertheless, I would have liked a more direct, explicit connection of the talks with the subject of credition. Related to my paper, I have tried to show the importance of considering different levels of language when speaking of credition.

In conclusion, there is still so much to be explored.