Introduction to Neuroeconomics and Neurofinance (2 ECTS in LNDS)

General information
Title: Introduction to Neuroeconomics and Neurofinance
Time: Wednesday 9.15-13.00 (every other week)
Dates: 22.2. / 8.3. / 22.3. / 5.4. / 26.4. / 10.5. / 17.5.
Instructor: Prof. Kerstin Preuschoff
E-Mail: kerstin.preuschoff@unige.ch
TAt: Mohsen Falahi
E-Mail: mohsen.falahi@unige.ch

Overview
Neuroeconomics is an emerging field that takes an interdisciplinary approach to studying decision making by integrating research questions and methods from many different disciplines such as neuroscience, economics, finance, psychology, affective sciences, and computational neuroscience.

By the end of the semester students will be able to
- Identify research questions and topics in neuroeconomics and neurofinance
- List the main research methods employed.
- Describe behavioral findings in neuroeconomics and neurofinance.
- Identify basic neural mechanisms of decision making.
- Prepare a research presentation (oral or written) for an interdisciplinary audience.
- Interact and discuss with fellow students in class in a constructive way.

The course will be taught in the form of seven 4-hour long workshops each of which will cover a different topic. In each workshop I will recap the previous workshop after which students present and discuss papers relating to the previous workshop. The second part of the workshop will introduce a new topic as well as an academic presentation skill. The final part will see students practicing this skill using research from the field.

Topics include fundamental tools in neuroeconomics, economic preferences, the neurobiology of valuation, choice and learning; social decision making, pathological decision-making and others.

Taking “Methods and Models in Neuroeconomics”, also offered in the spring will be helpful but is not necessary.

Requirements
A background in economics, neuroscience, psychology, computer science or related field. An interest in interdisciplinary research.

Evaluation
Term paper