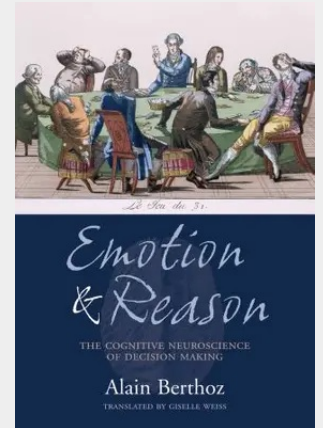


Emotion and Reason

An exhaustive examination of decision making processes, how they link with emotion, and how they control our perceptive processes - Contains a critical examination of decision theories, for those in a broad range of disciplines - Describes diseases of the brain that can affect decision making processes, particularly of relevance to those interested in legal issues of responsibility and justice Decision making is an area of profound importance to a wide range of specialities - for psychologists, economists, lawyers, clinicians, managers, and of course philosophers. Only relatively recently, though, have we begun to really understand how decision making processes are implemented in the brain, and how they might interact with our emotions. 'Emotion and Reason' presents a groundbreaking new approach to understanding decision making processes and their neural bases. The book presents a sweeping survey of the science of decision making. It examines the brain mechanisms involved in making decisions, and controversially proposes that many of our perceptual actions are essentially decision making processes. Whether looking, listening, hearing, or moving, we choose to attend to certain stimuli, at the expense of others. In some psychiatric disorders the inability to respond selectively to certain stimuli can be harmful - such pathologies of decision making are additionally considered. Berthoz also considers how many decision making processes involve an internal dialogue with our other self, and how this dialogue with our "doppelganger" might be represented in the brain. He considers the important implications that a neuroscience of decision making can have for the judiciary - how we apportion blame and responsibility; for economics - with discussion of the growing field of neuroeconomics; and for theories of management. Lastly he examines decision making and creativity - if perception relies in part on decision making processes, how might this alter our view of the artistic process. Written by a neuroscientist of international fame and accessible for both scientists and non-scientists, this book is the most exhaustive examination of the science of decision making yet. Reviews - "Decision-making is probably more pervasive and important than many scholars realize. It is not simply the result of deep thought and careful reflection, but rather is required to produce all but the simplest forms of reflexive behavior. This book explores key aspects of the nature of decision making and introduces stimulating new ideas and insights. I recommend it highly for anyone interested in how the brain guides behavior." - Stephen Kosslyn, John Lindsley Professor of Psychology, Harvard University Contents - Introduction - part I - Is Decision Making Rational or Irrational? - 1 The brain: gambler and logician - 2 Decision making and emotion - 3 The pathology of decision making - Part II - Decision Making with my Second Self - 4 Fight or flight - 5 Walking and balance - 6 Deliberating with one's body: me and my second self - Part III - Perception, Preference and Decision Making - 7 To perceive visually is to decide: the physiology of doubt - 8 Decision making and shape recognition: ambiguity and rivalry - 9 Sensory conflict: perception of movement - 10 Fountains - Part IV - Magical Thinking - 11 The physiology of preference - 12 "I think, therefore I suppress" - 13 The brain as emulator and generator of strategies : the vagabond thought - Epilogue



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