Max Planck UCL Centre for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing Research
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Researchers (Berlin Site)
Andreas M. Brandmaier, Douglas D. Garrett, Ulman Lindenberger, Nicolas W. Schuck
Overview

The behavioral neurosciences and related disciplines have seen spectacular scientific advances that make them rich in scientific opportunity. These advances have made it possible to work toward a mechanistic understanding of behavioral aging and psychopathology, two empirically overlapping fields of great importance to science and society. In both fields, it is of key importance to take a personalized lifespan approach by identifying neural and behavioral parameters that predict more or less favorable trajectories, with the intent to intervene in time when undesirable outcomes are expected.

With these goals in mind, the Max Planck Society and University College London (UCL) established the Max Planck UCL Centre for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing Research. The Centre’s opening ceremony took place in London at the Royal Society on 1 April 2014; the Max Planck Society and UCL provided an initial 5 years of funding. In 2019, the Centre was positively evaluated by the Max Planck Society and extended for another 5 years (2019–2024). The Centre has two sites, one in London (Russell Square) and the other in Berlin-Dahlem (MPI for Human Development). The Centre’s foundation was preceded by a 3-year preparatory phase, which also included the organization of the First Symposium and Advanced Course on Computational Psychiatry and Ageing Research in 2012 at Ringberg Castle, Bavaria. During the reporting period, the Centre organized a similar symposium in 2018, again at Ringberg Castle. Following the 2016 launch of the International Max Planck Research School on Computational Methods in Psychiatry and Ageing Research (COMP2PSYCH) to extend the Max Planck UCL Centre’s reach into graduate education (see pp. 287 ff. for details), the COMP2PSYCH program has continued to grow both in scope and number of students.

In Berlin, three research groups form part of the Centre: The project Formal Methods in Lifespan Psychology, led by Andreas Brandmaier at the Center for Lifespan Psychology, see pp. 151 ff.; the Emmy Noether Group Lifespan Neural Dynamics Group, led by Douglas D. Garrett (also affiliated with the Center for Lifespan Psychology, see pp. 195 ff.); and the Max Planck Research Group Neural and Computational Basis of Learning, Decision Making and Memory, led by Nicolas Schuck (see pp. 227 ff.). A full overview of the Centre’s activities, including those primarily based in London, can be found on the Centre’s website.

Researchers
(Berlin Site)

Andreas M. Brandmaier
Douglas D. Garrett
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Figure 1. Participants of the 4th Symposium and Advanced Course for Computational Methods in Psychiatry and Ageing Research, Castle Ringberg, Tegernsee, Germany.

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