





MSHS

AXE 1 SCIENCES COGNITIVES ET COMPUTATION





Journée Joel Swendsen Conférences

MSHS Sud-Est

L'Axe 1 (Sciences Cognitives et Computation) de la MSHS présente deux conférences autour des travaux en psychologie de Joel Swendsen, directeur de recherche au CNRS (UMR5287). Ses travaux relatifs aux neurosciences intégratives et aux confins de l'épidémiologie permettent d'apprécier les liens étroits dans le domaine de la santé entre psychologie et disciplines connexes.

15 Septembre 11h-12h

The Mobile Technology Revolution in Psychology, Neuroscience and the Medical Fields

Psychological research has long been hindered by methodological barriers that have frequently prevented direct tests of various theories and hypotheses. Perhaps the most challenging of which concerns temporal issues, and in particular the fact that relationships between variables are often characterized by a very brief 'life cycle' that spans only seconds, minutes or hours. Yet, many research designs have examined such phenomena over periods spanning days, weeks or months. Although laboratory research paradigms may overcome this barrier in some cases, they are most adapted to characterizing between-person variance in variables such as memory, executive functions, stress-reactivity, and other constructs, rather than examining the mechanisms underlying withinperson variation. Moreover, the ecological validity of data collected within a single

laboratory environment is limited, and therefore much remains to be known about the manner in which cognitive, emotional and behavioral processes express themselves in the authentic contexts of daily life. At the same time, progress in the neurosciences and medical fields has also been hindered by the inability to explain how biological markers may interact with specific environments in the expression of mental disorders. For example, while it is now undeniable that most forms are psychopathology have a genetic component, there is no single disorder characterized by autosomal dominant transmission and by 100% penetrance. The investigation of the multifactorial nature of such disorders requires that molecular and biologic risk factors be linked to their corresponding psychological or environmental catalysts. Mobile technologies overcome these fundamental barriers of concern for diverse disciplines, and therefore hold promise for a new era of interdisciplinary work. This presentation will describe these methodological barriers in detail and provide examples of how mobile technologies provide essential information that is inaccessible to traditional research designs.

15 Septembre 13h30-14h30

The Evaluation of Psychotherapy Efficacy in France: History of the INSERM Report

Before 2004, no government in France had ever evaluated the efficacy of psychotherapy (unless one considers the evaluation ordered by King Louis XVI over two centuries ago concerning Mesmer). However, the cost today of mental disorders can be counted in billions of euros per year and many of these syndromes are ranked among the top 20 most handicapping conditions according to the World Health Organization. Following the insistence of several national associations for the rights of patients in psychiatry in 2002, the French government solicited the expert center of INSERM to conduct a thorough evaluation of the efficacy of three different forms of psychotherapy: psychodynamic or psychoanalytic therapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy, and family therapy. The results of this two-year investigation revealed that cognitive-behavioral therapy was far superior to psychoanalysis in terms of the number of disorders for which efficacy had been demonstrated (with family therapy ranking between the two other forms). These results were immediately and vociferously contested by members of the psychoanalytic community, resulting in the removal of this report from the official website of the Ministry of Health. INSERM, however, refused to remove the report from their official website and defended its scientific validity and the rigor of its methods. This presentation will discuss the debate surrounding this report, the criteria used by INSERM for the evaluation of psychotherapy, and the implications of its results for the promotion of quality mental health care in

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