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L’intuition

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Conflict between logical and intuitive reasoning? : a case for logical intuitions
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Wim De Neys earned his Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology from the University of Leuven, Belgium. Before being recruited as a tenured CNRS research scientist in France he worked as a post-doc at the University of California Santa Barbara, York University Toronto, Canada, and the University of Leuven, Belgium. He is currently serving as Associate Editor for Psychonomic Bulletin & Review and Consulting Editor for the journals Memory & Cognition and Thinking & Reasoning.

Résumé de la conférence

Although the human species has unique cognitive abilities to reason, our thinking is easily biased by erroneous intuitions and stereotypes. From a sociological and economical perspective such biased thinking can be a massive problem. Examples range from the consequences of making bad financial decisions to racial or gender-based discrimination in job hiring. In my talk I will present an overview of findings that establish that despite the widespread bias and logical errors, people at least implicitly detect that their heuristic response conflicts with traditional normative considerations. I will clarify that this conflict sensitivity calls for the postulation of logical and probabilistic knowledge that is intuitive – and that is activated automatically when people engage in a reasoning task. In other words, I believe it makes sense to argue that our intuitive reasoning system is often cueing the correct logical response in classic reasoning tasks. I will sketch the opportunities and challenges of this idea for our view of human rationality.
Lecture proposée