UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

PSYCHOLOGY & NEUROSCIENCE TALK

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BEHAVIOURAL AND NEUROBIOLOGICAL MECHANISMS OF EXTINCTION IN PAVLOVIAN AND INSTRUMENTAL LEARNING

THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2015
1:30-3:00
4TH FLOOR LOCKHART (4L28)

Abstract: Pavlovian and instrumental learning are two fundamental forms of learning that contribute to behavior in a variety of ways, in both human and non-human animals. In Pavlovian extinction, repeated presentation of a signal without its reinforcer weakens behavior evoked by the signal; in instrumental extinction, repeated occurrence of a voluntary action without its reinforcer weakens the strength of the actions. In both cases, contemporary research at both the behavioural and neural levels of analysis has been guided by a set of extinction principles that were first generated by research conducted at the behavioral level. Both Pavlovian and instrumental extinction are at least partly controlled by a form of context-specific inhibitory learning, and both involve a neural circuit including the hippocampus and the medial prefrontal cortex.

Dr. Travis Todd graduated from the University of Winnipeg where he worked in the Doug Williams lab. He subsequently completed a PhD with Mark Bouton at the University of Vermont. Travis won a National Research Service Award from the National Institute of Mental Health and is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in the David Bucci lab at Dartmouth College. Read more at:

http://pbs.dartmouth.edu/travis-todd-postdoctoral-fellowship-award