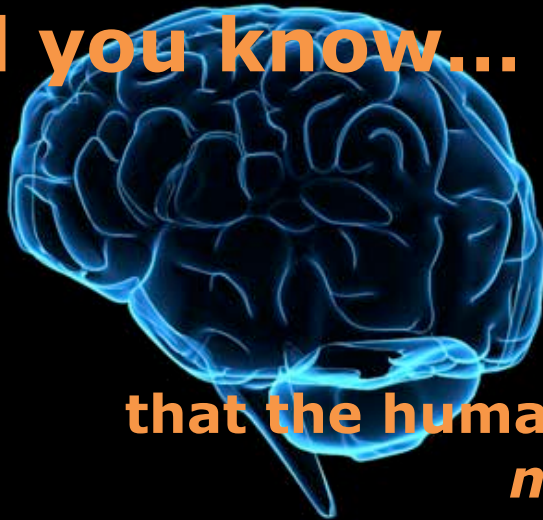


Neuroscience and Social Conflict

February 9-11, 2012 | MIT, Cambridge, MA

Did you know...



that the human brain is malleable?

Over the past two decades, billions of dollars have been spent trying to address the chronic negative impacts of conflict. Nevertheless, conflicts continue to erupt without remedies. What is missing in the repertoire of approaches by governments, conflict resolution practitioners, and aid organizations is a nuanced understanding of how we experience and process the legacy of conflict and how human emotions affect rational behavior and decision making.

There are currently many innovations being made in the field of neuroscience. These innovations test our assumptions about how humans think, feel, process information, and solve problems. These discoveries have the potential to influence our perception of the interplay between emotions and thought in our brains. These findings also have significant implications for public policy and conflict resolution practices.

In an effort to better understand current findings in the field of neuroscience and to help guide brain research on conflict, fear, and trauma, the **Project on Justice in Times of Transition** and the **Saxelab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** are initiating a multi-year partnership entitled **NEUROSCIENCE AND SOCIAL CONFLICT**. This multi-year initiative will **bring together social neuroscientists, experienced leaders of societies in transition from conflict, and conflict management experts** to exchange findings and challenges from their respective fields, while also developing research agendas that scientifically assess approaches to reduce conflict.

This initiative will investigate the way the brain thinks and reacts to conflict as well as seek to better understand from cutting edge research on the brain what can help ameliorate conflict. Our hope is that this exchange will shed new light on how to approach conflict resolution and why some efforts work better than others.

Goals of the overall initiative include:

~Facilitating dialogue between conflict management and neuroscience practitioners to share knowledge on the brain, human identity and societal change.

~Identifying gaps in each field's understandings of biological and psychological elements of human conflict.

~Facilitating an ongoing dialogue and research process among practitioners and policy makers in the areas of conflict resolution and neuroscience

~Disseminating relevant findings and policy recommendations on the relationship of the human brain to conflict.



THE PROJECT ON JUSTICE
IN TIMES OF TRANSITION

PUTTING EXPERIENCE TO WORK FOR PEACE

PHONE
(617) 599-5623

PJTT ADDRESS
2 Canal Park, 5th Fl
Cambridge, MA 02141

WEB
www.pjtt.org