

## Bonn Melbourne Seminar in Decision Making and Computational Psychiatry

### “Gaining Insights into Apathy in Schizophrenia: A Perspective from Effort-Based Decision Making”

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#### Abstract

Apathy, defined as impaired motivation and reduced goal-directed behavior, constitutes a central negative symptom in schizophrenia. This symptom significantly impairs psychological well-being, social functioning, and overall quality of life. Unfortunately, it often goes under-recognized, resulting in limited insights and a lack of effective interventions. In this presentation, I aim to provide a glimpse of our current understanding of apathy in schizophrenia, focusing on the perspective of effort-based decision making (EBDM). To begin, I will present an overview of the conceptual framework of EBDM and provide a summary of laboratory assessments conducted in human subjects. Next, I will focus on the EBDM impairment and its neural correlates in individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia and try to address whether these impairments may vary across different stages of the illness. Towards the end, I will address the limitations of the existing evidence and propose future directions that leverage computational psychiatry to enhance the clinical assessment and treatment of apathy in schizophrenia.

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 9am (CET)

<https://uni-bonn.zoom.us/j/67862809703?pwd=WHM3b3lIUeFJY2x0ekxLZUhxS3UvUT09>

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