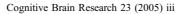
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## SPECIAL ISSUE

## **Multiple Perspectives on Decision Making**

Guest Editor: S.A. Bunge

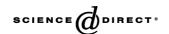
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Cognitive Brain Research 23 (2005) 1



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# Foreword

This special issue was inspired by an interdisciplinary conference titled "Exploring the Mind: Multiple Perspectives on Decision-Making", held at the University of California at Davis in April, 2004. The objective of this conference was to bring together researchers from various disciplines to discuss a common topic: how we make decisions and carry them out. The occasion was a celebration of the launch of the new Center for Mind and Brain at the university. The conference attracted junior and senior researchers from these different fields, and succeeded in generating interesting discussions between them. Many of these speakers have contributed articles to this issue, in addition to several other researchers who have done interesting work on decision-making.

The issue represents the range of research that is being done on decision-making today. The articles differ from one another in three important ways. First, the authors hail from fields ranging from psychology, neuroscience, psychiatry, and neurology to economics, business, management, and political science. Second, the papers feature cutting-edge behavioral, psychophysiological, neuropsychological, and brain imaging findings, as well as thought-provoking theoretical accounts. Third, the studies focus on healthy individuals, substance abusers, and/or patients with brain lesions or neurological disorders.

Despite the range of perspectives, measures, and sample populations that are evident on these pages, I think you will note some common themes across the articles. In our introductory review paper, Dr. Martin Paulus has done an admirable job of discussing some of these themes and identifying questions that will need to be addressed in the future. I hope that this special issue will foster the kind of collaborative research that is necessary to make progress towards understanding how and why individuals make the choices that they make, and what consequences their choices have.

I would like to thank Dr. G. R. Mangun, who had the idea to hold a conference and put together a special issue on decision-making, Dr. Steven Grant, who encouraged us to apply for a National Institute on Drug Abuse conference grant, and Dr. Cameron Carter, who helped to write the grant proposal. I would also like to acknowledge Elsevier and the National Institute on Drug Abuse for helping to defray the costs of the conference, and the staff of the Center for Mind and Brain, who hosted it at the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts in Davis. Finally, I thank the authors themselves for their interesting and scholarly contributions.

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