



**University of  
Zurich** <sup>UZH</sup>

## Department of Economics – Neuroeconomics Seminar

**November 2, 2023 17:00 - 18:00**

Jörg Gross

### **The evolution of universal cooperation**

Humans work together in groups to tackle shared problems and contribute to local club goods that benefit other group members. Whereas benefits from club goods remain group-bound, groups are often nested in overarching collectives that face shared problems like pandemics or climate change. Such challenges require individuals to cooperate across group boundaries, raising the question how cooperation can transcend beyond confined groups. Here we show how frequent intergroup interactions allow groups to transition from group-bound to universal cooperation. With frequent intergroup interactions, reciprocity of cooperative acts permeates group boundaries and enable the evolution of universal cooperation. As soon as frequent intergroup interactions take place, people start to selectively reward cooperation aimed at benefitting everyone irrespective of their group membership. Simulations further show that it becomes more difficult to overcome group-bound cooperation when populations are fragmented into many small groups."

Zoom Link:

<https://uzh.zoom.us/j/66083933314?pwd=SnpXTCswQ05DSGtCTTc3OTRTMVBRdz09>  
Meeting ID: 660 8393 3314