



**University of
Zurich** ^{UZH}

Department of Economics – Neuroeconomics Seminar

December 11, 2025 - 17:00 - 18:00

Valeria Gazzola
Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience

The neural bases of empathy and their role in harm-aversion and prosocial decision making across species

Everyone would likely agree that the emotional state of other individual can affect us in many ways, from aligning our emotional state to that of others, to motivate us to help. In my talk, I will review some of the brain mechanisms we believe involved in the alignment of emotional states across individuals, in particular for sharing the distress of others, and their possible role as motivator to avoiding harm and help others in pain. I will also show that these brain mechanisms seem to be evolutionary preserved, by comparing similar experimental tasks across rodents and humans.