



UConn BIRC Speaker Series

Tuesday, December 1st from 3:30–5 pm ET via Zoom

Ways to think about the brain

Gyorgy Buzsaki, MD, PhD, New York University Neuroscience Institute



Abstract: Current neuroscience is largely fueled by an empiricist philosophy that assumes the brain's goal is to perceive, represent the world, and learn the truth. An inevitable consequence of this framework is the assumption of a decision-making homunculus wedged between our perception and actions. In contrast, I advocate that the brain's fundamental function is to induce actions and predict the consequences of those actions to support the survival and prosperity of the brain's host. Only actions can provide a second opinion about the relevance of the sensory inputs and provide meaning for and interpretation of those inputs. In this “inside-out” framework, the brain comes with a preconfigured and self-organized dynamic that constrains how it acts and views the world. In the brain's nonegalitarian organization, preexisting nonsense brain patterns become meaningful through action-based experience.

Bio: Dr. Gyorgy Buzsaki is currently Biggs Professor of Neuroscience, at New York University School of Medicine. After completing his MD at University of Pecs, Hungary, he went on to complete his PhD at Academy of Sciences, Budapest. Since then, Dr. Buzsaki has authored a vast number of peer reviewed articles, books, chapters, reviews, and essays. His books, including *Rhythms of the Brain*, are especially very well known. He has published in journals such as Nature, Science, Neuron, and Cell. He is recognized as a Thompson Reuters Highly Cited Researcher. Dr. Buzsaki serves as an editorial board member for a number of journals including Science, Neuron, and Reviews in the Neurosciences. Additionally, Dr. Buzsaki is the 2011 recipient of The Brain Prize and is Elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. His lab currently focuses on the spatial and temporal relationships of brain oscillations organized in a hierarchical fashion.

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