UConn BIRC Speaker Series

Tuesday, May 18th from 12-1:30 pm ET via Zoom

What's wrong with neuroimaging, and how can we make it right?

Russel Poldrack, PhD, Stanford University

Abstract: Functional neuroimaging has given rise to tens of thousands of publications, but we remain far from a comprehensive understanding the neural basis of mental functions. I will argue that this arises from two fundamental flaws in the way that neuroimaging research has been done. First, I will argue that we have been asking the wrong questions, such that our research strategy has no way of uncovering selective relations between brain systems and mental functions. Second, I will argue that we have been asking these questions in the wrong way, using methods that do not provide reproducible results. I will outline a set of conceptual and analytic strategies that I hope can help address these problems.

Bio: Russell A. Poldrack is the Albert Ray Lang Professor in the Department of Psychology and Professor (by courtesy) of Computer Science at Stanford University, and Director of the Stanford Center for Reproducible Neuroscience. His research uses neuroimaging to understand the brain systems underlying decision making and executive function. His lab is also engaged in the development of neuroinformatics tools to help improve the reproducibility and transparency of neuroscience, including the Openneuro.org and Neurovault.org data sharing projects and the Cognitive Atlas ontology.

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