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**Research Articles: Behavioral/Cognitive**

**Independent Neural Computation of Value from Other People's Confidence**

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4 **Title:** Independent Neural Computation of Value from Other People's Confidence

5 **Abbreviated Title:** Pathways to Value in the Brain

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27

**Abstract**

28       Expectation of reward can be shaped by the observation of actions and  
29 expressions of other people in one's environment. A person's apparent confidence in  
30 the likely reward of an action, for instance, makes qualities of their evidence, not  
31 observed directly, socially accessible. This strategy is computationally distinguished  
32 from associative learning methods that rely on direct observation, by its use of  
33 inference from indirect evidence. In twenty-three healthy human subjects, we isolated  
34 effects of first-hand experience, other people's choices, and the mediating effect of  
35 their confidence, on decision-making and neural correlates of value within  
36 ventromedial prefrontal cortex (vmPFC). Value derived from first-hand experience and  
37 other people's choices (irrespective of confidence) were indiscriminately represented  
38 across vmPFC. However, value computed from agent choices weighted by their  
39 associated confidence was represented with specificity for ventromedial area 10. This  
40 pattern corresponds to shifts of connectivity and overlapping cognitive processes  
41 along a posterior-anterior vmPFC axis. Task behavior and self-reported self-reliance  
42 for decision-making in other social contexts correlated. The tendency to conform in  
43 other social contexts corresponded to increased activation in cortical regions  
44 previously shown to respond to social conflict in proportion to subsequent conformity  
45 (Campbell-Meiklejohn et al., 2010). The tendency to self-monitor predicted a  
46 selectively enhanced response to accordance with others in the right temporoparietal  
47 junction (rTPJ). The findings anatomically decompose vmPFC value representations

48 according to computational requirements and provide biological insight into the social  
49 transmission of preference and reassurance gained from the confidence of others.

50

## 51 **Significance Statement**

52 Decades of research have provided evidence that ventromedial prefrontal cortex  
53 (vmPFC) signals the satisfaction we expect from imminent actions. Yet, we have a  
54 surprisingly modest understanding of the organization of value across this substantial  
55 and varied region. This study finds that using cues of the reliability of other peoples'  
56 knowledge to enhance expectation of personal success generates value correlates  
57 that are anatomically distinct from those concurrently computed from direct, personal  
58 experience. This suggests that representation of decision values in vmPFC is sub-  
59 organized according to the underlying computation, consistent with what we know  
60 about the anatomical heterogeneity of the region. These results also provide insight  
61 into the observational learning process by which someone else's confidence can sway  
62 and reassure our choices.

## 63 **Introduction**

64 The human brain can use a variety of learning strategies to better its situation.  
65 Unifying economic theories suggest that different decision processes converge to a  
66 single expectation of satisfaction (or 'value') that will be gained or lost from available  
67 actions – correlates of which are found in activity throughout ventromedial prefrontal  
68 cortex (Levy and Glimcher, 2012; Bartra et al., 2013), and guide decisions toward  
69 options of greater value. Whether this activity represents a single computation of value,  
70 a collection of distinct computations, or both, is not clear. But there are both  
71 computational and anatomical reasons to suspect sub-regional specialization.

72           Reward predictions from different types of information are computed differently.  
 73   For instance, one can learn about an action's value by maintaining a running average  
 74   of rewards received from performing it. However, some knowledge is only socially  
 75   and/or inferentially accessible; if one observes someone else perform an action, one  
 76   can recruit inferential strategies for a judgement of that action's value. For instance,  
 77   people provide signals of high confidence when they have good knowledge of the  
 78   likely outcomes to their actions (Patel et al., 2012). So, confident actions of others  
 79   should have greater influence on our own appraisals (Thomas and Mcfadyen, 1995).  
 80   So, if the other person appears to know what she is doing (and assuming her  
 81   intentions are similar to mine), one can employ a rule of imitate-if-appears-confident,  
 82   or more flexibly, one can infer what she knows from her actions and confidence, then  
 83   combine this with knowledge inferred from other cues and personal experience. These  
 84   and similar strategies, unlike directly sampling outcomes, may require steps of  
 85   indirection and integration of multiple cues (e.g. of others' preference and confidence)  
 86   but also enable us to compute value in the absence of first-hand experience with prior  
 87   choice outcomes. We developed a task that provides different types of information for  
 88   evaluating the value of the same choice: first-hand knowledge, choices of others, and  
 89   their confidence. We then compared contributions of each information source to  
 90   decision-making and neural representations of value across vmPFC.

91           We considered that different computations of value could make use of shifting  
 92   connectivity, cytoarchitecture, and overlapping cognition toward the anterior of vmPFC  
 93   (Kringelbach and Rolls, 2004). Cytoarchitecturally, laminar density and granular layer  
 94   IV volume increase along a posterior to anterior axis (Ongur et al., 2003; Mackey and  
 95   Petrides, 2010), indicative of increasing inter-area connectivity (Barbas, 2007). Local  
 96   connectivity required for integrating value signals *in situ* dominates posterior vmPFC.

97 In contrast, anterior regions maintain a balance of local and distant connectivity that  
98 can *additionally* recruit higher-order input (Sepulcre et al., 2010). Correspondingly,  
99 moving anterior and dorsal from classical representations of value in area 25 (through  
100 areas labelled as area 14m (Mackie, 2010) or 10m and 10r (Ongur et al., 2003)) to  
101 medial area 10, known overlapping processes become more abstract, integrative, and  
102 inferential (Ramnani and Owen, 2004; Amodio and Frith, 2006; Burgess et al., 2007;  
103 Sescousse et al., 2013). Representations of value that require more inferential or  
104 integrative processes may map to distinct regions across this cortical landscape.

105 An anatomical distinction between value from first-hand knowledge and value  
106 from agents' confidence-weighted influence would exemplify the mapping of value to  
107 cortex as determined by its computational requirements. It would also provide the  
108 foundation for investigation of the neural mechanism by which the supporting  
109 confidence of others guides our actions. Based on changes of connectivity and  
110 overlapping function, value from confidence-weighted influence was predicted to  
111 preferentially recruit anterior regions of vmPFC while direct, personal sampling and the  
112 main effect of agents' choices (regardless of confidence) was not.

113 We linked individual differences of influence on task performance to sensitivity  
114 of neural responses to corresponding task stimuli. Finally, to establish the relevance of  
115 our task and findings to social environments we tested the relationship between  
116 observed effects (neural and behavioral) and influence of others on participant  
117 behavior (conformity and self-monitoring) outside the lab.

118

**Materials and Methods****119 Participants**

120 Participants were right-handed and had no history of brain injury or  
 121 psychological disorder. Each gave informed consent. Inclusion criteria for fMRI  
 122 analysis included at least some use of each information source during the behavioral  
 123 task to enable contrasts between value-based activation derived from different sources  
 124 (exclusions were indicated by near-perfect prediction of choice outcomes by only one  
 125 or two influences, a simple rule-based strategy which precluded quantitative  
 126 examination of behavior by leading to extremely large and unstable estimates of  
 127 regression coefficients) (5 participants excluded). Head movements were required to  
 128 be consistently smaller than a single voxel (2mm) (1 participant excluded). 23  
 129 participants (13 male, age: M 26 SD 3.6) met all requirements. Each received 110  
 130 Danish Krone (kr) (20 USD) for time spent participating and 60 kr (10 USD) for  
 131 winnings on tasks (all subjects were paid this same amount). The study was approved  
 132 by Central Denmark Region ethics (No. 29718).

**133 Task**

134 The Urn Task (Figure 1) examines how participants make decisions when  
 135 provided with different sources of information. It asks participants to infer the color of  
 136 the next marble to be drawn (red or green) for each of a series of 160 mixed urns, with  
 137 opportunities to do so by inferring other people's information about the likely outcome.  
 138 Participants had the following information about each urn: a random sample of 8  
 139 marbles, four predictions described as being made by past participants (four "agents")  
 140 based on their own samples from the same urns, and the confidence expressed by  
 141 those agents. All samples were said to be replaced before the final marble was drawn.

142           Agents' faces were presented with neutral expressions. To ensure any effects  
143 were due to the use of agents' confidence, rather than its inference, we communicated  
144 confidence with an explicit cue described to subjects during training: the smug  
145 (confident cue) or perplexed (unconfident) animated smiley that appeared within the  
146 indicated choice (red or green marble) (See Figure 1). Agents' choices were also said  
147 to be presented in the time taken by the agent to make them. Confident response  
148 times were between 325 and 1000ms. Unconfident response times were between  
149 1800ms to 2600ms. Once all agents' responses were made, participants had 1300ms  
150 to observe them before their own sample appeared. All information was available for  
151 1250ms before a choice could be made, cued by presentation of choice options.

152           The participant never saw agent samples, and agents were said never to see  
153 the participant's sample. Agent choices were seen before personal samples because  
154 they were assumed to take longer to process. There was no time limit for participant  
155 decisions once the cue for a choice was presented. After a choice, confirmation of the  
156 choice was briefly shown and followed by a 1s inter-trial interval. The task took 23  
157 minutes to completion, on average.

158           After instructions for the task, using visual displays, participants were quizzed  
159 by the experimenter on the meaning of each display item and asked what might be in  
160 the urn given various combinations of information. Instructions were repeated if  
161 necessary. It was critical before progression that participants understood that samples  
162 reflected 'randomly mixed' urn contents (the urn shook on arrival for emphasis) and  
163 were replaced. No trial outcome was provided to subjects, so participants could not  
164 learn to associate outcomes with colors or agents. They were required to make the  
165 best use of the information available, and told that a random urn would be selected



166 and sampled to see if the subject was correct, with a potential reward of 30 Danish  
167 Kroner (DKK).

168       The experimenters actually programmed agents' choices, agents' confidences,  
169 and agents' deliberation times in a way that fully counterbalanced the factors of  
170 participants' samples, agents' choices, and the confidences of agents favoring either  
171 color. Agents were drawn with replacement from a set of 30 images from the Radboud  
172 face dataset, in sepia tone (Langner et al., 2010). The use of fictional agents'  
173 responses was necessary to achieve sufficient statistical power and ensure that each  
174 subject experienced each possible combination of agents' choice, agents' confidence  
175 and personal sample. This was explained to participants during debriefing.

176       The task was designed to study how participants decide across a range of  
177 combinations of sample, agents' choice and agents' confidence. Accordingly, trials  
178 were generated by creating every possible combination, across trials, of: the number  
179 of agents favoring red (vs. green), confidence for agents favoring red, confidence of  
180 agents favoring green, and participants' samples – all varying independently of one  
181 another. Thus there was no real-world optimal strategy (in the sense that the  
182 observations were not actually produced by simulating draws from an urn whose  
183 contents could then be predicted), and each participant was paid the maximum reward  
184 at the end of the study.

185       Confidence expressed by any agent was the same as confidence expressed by  
186 any other agent that predicted the same color. At the risk of this aspect appearing odd  
187 to participants, it enabled us to test our predictions with a clear choice x confidence  
188 factorial design that identified independent contributions of each information source to  
189 decisions and neural activity. It also kept the task length manageable for an fMRI study.

190 During debriefing, no participant expressed doubt in the authenticity of the agents'  
191 responses.

192       There were 160 trials in the scanned task. For each number of agents choosing  
193 red (0 to 4), there were 32 trials. Sets of 32 were made up of 7 sample distributions (1-  
194 7 reds in the participant sample; samples with 4 reds were presented twice as often as  
195 the other combinations) evenly distributed over each available combination of agents'  
196 confidence. When 1 to 3 agents chose red, there were 4 confident/unconfident  
197 combinations. When 0 or 4 agents chose red there were two options (high and low  
198 confidence in the agents' chosen color).

#### 199 **Procedure**

200 Prior to scanning, outside the scanner, the participants guessed the next marble from  
201 a series of 28 urns *and* indicated confidence in these predictions, based only on a  
202 sample of 8 marbles from each (no agents' choices). Participants were told that their  
203 own predictions during this task would be used for the Urn Task of future participants.  
204 This provided participants with the agents' perspective. Participants were also given a  
205 30 DKK 'prize' for this task. Next, after receiving instructions, the participant practiced  
206 for 20 trials before beginning the task in the scanner. Finally, after scanning, the  
207 participant filled in questionnaires measuring self-monitoring and the tendency to  
208 conform outside the lab before being debriefed.

#### 209 **Behavior Analysis**

210       We performed a factorial, mixed effects logistic regression, which we refer to as  
211 the *Component Value Behavioral Model*, to analyze participant choices (dependent  
212 variable: per trial choice of red, vs green) as a function of a number of candidate  
213 explanatory factors and their interactions. Choices were analyzed in R (v. 3.2.3, R

214 development Core Team RRID:SCR\_001905) using the lme4 package (v. 1.1.12).  
 215 The model allows for the measurement of influence of multiple sources of information  
 216 on the probability of choosing red. This includes added value of a confident agent's  
 217 choice over an unconfident one. The following predictors of participant choice of red  
 218 (described below) were added to the regression:

219       **S**: proportion of marbles in participant's sample that were red.

220       **O**: proportion of agents choosing red.

221       **C<sub>R</sub>**: confidence of agents choosing red (-0.5 low, 0.5 high)

222       **C<sub>G</sub>**: confidence of agents choosing green (-0.5 low, 0.5 high)

223       **O<sub>R</sub>C<sub>R</sub>**: proportion of agents choosing red x their confidence

224       **O<sub>G</sub>C<sub>G</sub>**: proportion of agents choosing green x their confidence

225  
 226       Each predictor was scaled to a range for 0 to 1 and centered around its mean,  
 227 for each subject. Common scaling allows for the estimated coefficients to be  
 228 comparable, across predictors, with each expressed in units of change in log odds of  
 229 choice corresponding to a change from the minimal to the maximal value. Centering is  
 230 recommended (Cohen, 2003) because it allows main effects to be interpreted as  
 231 effects when all other effect variables are at their mean, without affecting interaction  
 232 terms. Interaction terms were calculated from the product of the scaled and centered  
 233 predictors. **C<sub>R</sub>** and **C<sub>G</sub>** had no meaning when no agents chose that color and so these  
 234 variables were set to their mean (i.e. 0) in these instances, giving them no statistical  
 235 effect.

236           The rationale and interpretation of these variables is as follows. **S** and **O** are  
 237 two independent sources of information about the urn in the design; our major  
 238 question is whether the confidence **C<sub>R</sub>** & **C<sub>G</sub>** modulates the effect of **O**. **S** codes the  
 239 relative proportion of red (vs green) marbles in the agent's own sample, and a positive  
 240 regression coefficient for it captures an increasing tendency to choose red when more  
 241 red marbles are observed. Since the fraction of green marbles is equal to  $1 - S$ , a  
 242 model with predictors for both effects (and an intercept) would be rank-deficient;  
 243 however, following mean centering, **S** codes the difference in red vs green marbles  
 244 sampled (with a positive value indicating a preponderance of red and negative values  
 245 the opposite), capturing both effects symmetrically. The same point holds for **O**. The  
 246 effect of **O** captures an increasing tendency to choose red when the relative proportion  
 247 of agents choosing red (minus those choosing green) is larger. Following mean  
 248 centering,  $O = -O_G$  (proportion choosing green). So interactions **O<sub>R</sub>C<sub>R</sub>** and **O<sub>G</sub>C<sub>G</sub>**  
 249 capture the difference of this effect for red and green choices (respectively) between  
 250 confident vs. unconfident agents. The main effects of confidence, **C<sub>R</sub>** and **C<sub>G</sub>**, capture  
 251 the baseline effect of confident votes when the votes are evenly split, and control for  
 252 any overall change in choice tendency when red, or green, votes are confident,  
 253 independent of the number of votes.

254           Each effect contained both a fixed and a random effect term, i.e. a mean slope  
 255 at the group level, an error term allowing that slope to vary from subject to subject, and  
 256 a full covariance matrix among the random slopes. We verified that all these effects  
 257 should be included in several ways. First, the significant tests for all regression  
 258 coefficients (save the intercept) in Table 1 reject the null hypotheses corresponding to  
 259 the nested models with any one effect being zero. We also present AIC comparisons  
 260 for the full model against a set of submodels, each omitting one effect. Conversely, we

also tested for progressive improvement in model fit to behavior (by AIC and a likelihood ratio test ( $\chi^2$  P < 0.05)) (Vazquez et al., 2010) as effects were added incrementally (in the order: intercept, **S**, **O**, **C<sub>R</sub>** and **C<sub>G</sub>**, **O<sub>R</sub>C<sub>R</sub>** and **O<sub>G</sub>C<sub>G</sub>**. Each significantly improved the model fit to behavior (detailed results not reported). An additional interaction term between **S** and **O** did not improve the fit.

*Component Value Behavioral Model:*

$$\text{logit}(P)_{ij} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 S_{ij} + \beta_2 O_{ij} + \beta_3 C_{Rij} + \beta_4 C_{Gij} + \beta_5 O_R C_{Rij} + \beta_6 O_G C_{Gij} + \epsilon$$

where  $P$  is the probability choosing red for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  trial for subject  $j$ ,  $\beta$  represents regression coefficients including random effects for all coefficients and  $\epsilon$  is error.

#### Individual Difference Measures

*Task Behavior:* To measure individual differences of information influence, we measured the effect of each information source on the likelihood of each participant's decisions. Using the fixed and random effects of the *Component Value Behavioral Model*, we calculated the fit (via negative log likelihood) of this model to choices of individual participants. We then calculated the fit of four other models (using the same fitted parameters as the full model): one without **S**, one without **O**, one without both **C<sub>R</sub>** or **C<sub>G</sub>** and one without both **O<sub>R</sub>C<sub>R</sub>** and **O<sub>G</sub>C<sub>G</sub>**. The effect of each model reduction on behavior likelihood (smaller model – full model) represented the impact of the subtracted variable(s) for that participant: **S** effect, **O** effect, **C** effect and **OC** effect, respectively (Hampton et al., 2008). (The intent of this procedure was to measure the effect of each variable in each subject, but using units of differential log likelihood, analogous to variance explained, rather than estimated regression coefficients. This is because the scaling of the latter can be erratic from subject to subject). These effects

283 were entered as covariates in a separate group level fMRI analyzes and tested for  
 284 relation to behavior outside the lab.

285 *Choices in Other Contexts:* This study was agnostic to whether findings are  
 286 unique to social environments, but it was imperative to test the relevance of the results  
 287 to social behavior outside the lab, given their social context. To test the relevance of  
 288 task behavior, we used a self-report 'conformity scale' (Mehrabian and Stefl, 1995).  
 289 The Conformity Scale assesses weight placed on other people's choices relative to  
 290 one's own information in a variety social contexts. It requires participants to rate  
 291 agreement or disagreement (on a scale from -4 to 4) with 11 statements referring to  
 292 reliance on others for decisions. Higher scores mean greater reliance on others. The  
 293 scale does not assess the use of the others' confidence, so to test its relationship to  
 294 task behavior we created a simplified model that contained only **S** and **O** (removing  
 295 confidence from the model). Then, similar to above, we calculated the effects of **S** and  
 296 **O** on model fit. We then tested the correlation between these effects (and difference  
 297 between them) and conformity scale scores. Self-monitoring (Snyder, 1974) was also  
 298 assessed measuring the tendency to adapt behavior in response to cues from an  
 299 audience, but no effect was hypothesized given that there was no audience in this task.

## 300 **Neuroimaging**

### 301 *fMRI Procedure*

302 Participants were instructed and given time to practice until the task was  
 303 understood and responses could be made in less than 4 seconds. The task was  
 304 presented with Presentation v.12 software (Neurobehavioral Systems Inc.  
 305 RRID:SCR\_002521). Scanning took place at the Danish Neuroscience Centre, Aarhus,  
 306 Denmark on a 3 Tesla Siemens Trio Scanner (Siemens Medical Solutions, Erlangen,

Germany) fitted with a 32-channel head coil. The Urn Task displays were back-projected and observed via a mirror and responses were collected from the right-hand using a fibre-optic button box.

### *Image Acquisition*

Functional (Echo Planar Images, EPI) data was collected as T2-weighted echo planar images (EPI) in an interleaved slice acquisition order. Each EPI volume contained 52 slices with the following parameters: voxel size 2x2x2 mm, TE 27 ms, TR 2800ms, Flip Angle: 90°. The small 2mm voxel size efficiently reduced orbitofrontal cortex dropout and distortion. 176-slice 1mm voxel whole-brain anatomical scans were also acquired for co-registration with the EPI data using an MPRAGE sequence on a 256x256x176 grid with the following parameters: TE: 3.7ms, Inversion Time: 900ms, TR: 2420ms, Flip angle: 9°.

### *First Level fMRI Analysis*

All image analysis was carried out with tools of FMRIB's Software Library (FSL RRID:SCR\_002823) version 5.0.6 (Smith et al., 2004). Preparation of the EPI data used FSL defaults (FEAT 6.0). Volumes acquired during significant (>1mm) head movements were replaced with neighboring volumes and events with modelled responses occurring during these acquisitions were removed from all models. Independent Component Analysis was used to visually identify and remove remaining artefacts in the data using MELODIC (Beckmann and Smith, 2004). General linear models were fit in pre-whitened data space for each individual participant. Regressors and temporal derivatives were convolved with the default FSL haemodynamic response function (gamma function, delay: 6s, standard deviation: 3s), and filtered by the same high pass filter as the data. Single-participant results were transformed

331 using nonlinear deformation algorithms into standard space (Montreal Neurological  
332 Institute, MNI152).

### 333 *Component Value fMRI Model*

334       In the *Component Value Behavioral Model* of choices, the dependent variable  
335 was choice of red (vs green), and variables were constructed as they related to the  
336 evidence in favor of choosing either color. In the fMRI analysis, the dependent  
337 measures were neural activity during these choices. However, rather than covarying  
338 with the tendency to choose options on the basis of a dimension like color, BOLD  
339 activity is widely reported to vary along the dimension of the chosen vs. unchosen  
340 option, with larger responses in medial PFC when the chosen (or about to be chosen)  
341 option is more likely to be correct, carries more reward, or is otherwise more strongly  
342 preferred (Tanaka et al., 2004; Daw et al., 2006; Kim et al., 2006; O'Doherty et al.,  
343 2007; Behrens et al., 2008; Wunderlich et al., 2010). Therefore, to test for analogous  
344 neural effects as on the behavior, we model the BOLD data using precisely the same  
345 set of explanatory variables as the behavioral analysis, but expressed with respect to  
346 evidence supporting the chosen vs. unchosen options on each trial, rather than the red  
347 vs. green options. So when *red* is chosen,  $\mathbf{S}_A$  and  $\mathbf{O}_A$  (for evidence in “accordance”  
348 with the choice) are defined in terms of *red* samples and choices. When green is  
349 chosen, they are defined in terms of green samples and choices. In keeping with the  
350 literature on neural correlates of decision variables, we refer to activity correlated with  
351 these variables as reflecting their influence as components of “chosen value,” meaning  
352 the overall supporting evidence that the subject’s choice was correct. However, we  
353 stress that given the symmetry of our task (where choices are mutually exclusive, and  
354 evidence supporting red opposes green), such activity can be understood as reflecting



relative (chosen minus unchosen) value, as indeed has been reported for medial PFC (Boorman et al, 2009).

So the set of variables in the fMRI analysis track those from the behavioral analysis, but coded in terms of accordance of an information source with the subject's choice. Each variable had a parametric weight of accordance that varied trial-by-trial. As in the behavioral model, variables were scaled to a range of 1 and mean centered (orthogonal to a constant term). Like the behavioral model, interaction regressors were calculated by multiplying respective main effect regressors after scaling and mean centering.

The *Component Value fMRI Model* contained the following variables:

**S<sub>A</sub>**: proportion of marbles in sample in accord with participant's choice  
**O<sub>A</sub>**: proportion of agents' choices in accord with participant's choice  
**C<sub>A</sub>**: confidence of accordant agents (-0.5 or 0.5)  
**C<sub>D</sub>**: confidence of discordant agents (-0.5 or 0.5)  
**O<sub>A</sub>C<sub>A</sub>**: accordant agents' choices x their confidence  
**O<sub>D</sub>C<sub>D</sub>**: discordant agents' choices x their confidence  
plus intercept.

'A' and 'D' subscripts represent accordance or discordance of the information source with the choice. Just as in the behavioral analysis, following mean centering **S<sub>A</sub>** codes the relative proportion of accordant (minus discordant) marbles; **O<sub>A</sub>** codes the relative proportion of accordant (minus discordant) other agents' choices; hence **S<sub>D</sub>** ( $= -S_A$ ) and **O<sub>D</sub>** ( $= -O_A$ ) are redundant. Also as for behavior, **C<sub>A</sub>** and **C<sub>D</sub>** are mutually independent, and their interactions with **O<sub>A</sub>** (and **O<sub>D</sub>** $= -O_A$ ) capture the difference of effect on BOLD from other agents' accordant (vs discordant) choices, when those

agents are confident compared to when they are unconfident. Also, as with behavior  $C_A$  and  $C_D$  had no meaning (and were not presented) when no agents chose the color and so these variable were set to the mean (i.e. 0) in these instances, having no statistical effect.

### Integrated Value fMRI Model

Preceding the full model fit described above, which aimed to decompose the influence of different sources of information on value-related BOLD correlates, we wished to verify the presence of activity related to overall value. To define this, we extracted the likelihood assigned by the *Component Value Behavioral Model* to each chosen option of each subject, and took this choice probability as our estimate of the integrated chosen value. Such probabilities reflect the transform of the weighted sum of evidences, through the logistic softmax so as to range from 0 to 1, which provides a well normalized summary of the overall evidence in favor of a red vs green choice, or chosen minus unchosen value, which has been shown to track medial PFC activity (e.g., (Daw and Doya, 2006)).

Accordingly, the fitted model to each subject was:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 S_i + \beta_2 O_i + \beta_3 C_{Ri} + \beta_4 C_{Gi} + \beta_5 O_R C_{Ri} + \beta_6 O_G C_{Gi} + \epsilon$$

for each  $i^{\text{th}}$  trial, where  $\beta$  represents fitted mixed and random effect parameters and  $\epsilon$  is error. If participant chooses red, choice likelihood is  $\frac{e^{Y_{ij}}}{1 + e^{Y_{ij}}}$ . If participant chooses green, choice likelihood is  $1 - \frac{e^{Y_{ij}}}{1 + e^{Y_{ij}}}$ . This vector of likelihoods was entered, along with a constant, to predict the neural correlates of integrated value (Figure 3A).

### Timing

400 The modelled fMRI event, for all regressors, was a 1250 ms period when  
 401 agents' choices and personal samples were concurrently available, before a choice  
 402 could be made. During this period, both vmPFC sample-driven activation and agent-  
 403 driven activation were at peak levels (Figure 4). A temporal derivative of each event  
 404 was added to the model to control for slight errors of fit to the haemodynamic response.  
 405 The interval between modelled events varied as determined by participant reaction  
 406 time (M 1.2s, SD 1.6s) and variable time taken for choices of agents to appear (range  
 407 0.32 to 2.7s). 80% of participant reaction times were under 1.7s and 90% under 3s.  
 408 This resulted in a positively skewed distribution of periods between modelled events  
 409 (M 8.6s, SD 1.7s).

#### 410 *The Spatial Linear Parametric Analysis*

411 To characterize anatomical patterns of activation associated with estimated  
 412 value from  $S_A$  (first-hand experience of sample),  $O_A$  (agents' choices alone), and  $O_A C_A$   
 413 (interaction effect of agents' confidence and agents' choices) we generated five  
 414 anatomically defined spheres of 10mm diameter linearly traversing an anatomical axis  
 415 (Nicolle et al., 2012; Sul et al., 2015). This axis spanned the superior medial gyrus,  
 416 dorsal to the gyrus rectus. It began in area 10m/14m (Ongur et al., 2003; Mackey and  
 417 Petrides, 2010), at MNI coordinates [0mm, 32mm, -16mm], within a region defined by  
 418 metaanalysis as associated with choice value (Levy and Glimcher, 2012; Bartra et al.,  
 419 2013). It ended to the frontal pole at the approximate center of ventromedial area 10  
 420 (MNI coordinates 0mm, 64mm, 8mm), a region associated with abstract reasoning  
 421 about mental states (Amodio and Frith, 2006) (Figure 4). Mean percent signal change  
 422 as extracted from each sphere, for each variable. Percent signal change in response  
 423 to S, O and OC variables, as well as the contrasts of OC – S and OC – O (to test how  
 424 the difference of responses to different information change along this axis) was

425 examined by mixed effect linear regressions (lme4 with Kenward-Roger approximation  
426 of dof).

427 Fixed impulse response (FIR) sets were then fitted to each regressor in the  
428 *Component Value fMRI Model*. These sets spanned a period of 19.6s divided into 7  
429 time bins, each the length of a TR (2.8s). This period began at the point that agents'  
430 responses began to appear on the screen. Mean parameter estimates for each of  $S_A$ ,  
431  $O_A$  and  $O_A C_A$  were extracted in each sphere and plotted in Figure 4. To investigate  
432 the nature of the interaction between of agents' choice and confidence, we did the  
433 same for a second GLM that included separate regressors for confident and  
434 unconfident agents supporting the participant's choice. Remaining regressors of the  
435 *Component Value fMRI Model* were included as covariates ( $S_A$ ,  $C_D$  and  $O_D C_D$ ). We  
436 plotted the time courses of the effects of confident agents and unconfident agents in  
437 Figure 5.

#### 438 *Group Level fMRI Analysis*

439 Both group models were fitted to parameter estimates from each lower level  
440 analysis, using mixed effects in FSL. All group-level Z (Gaussianised T/F) statistical  
441 images represent whole-brain searches using cluster corrected statistics (FMRIB's  
442 Local Analysis of Mixed Effects (FLAME) 1+2) (Woolrich et al., 2004) ( $Z > 3.0$  voxel  
443 threshold,  $P < 0.05$  cluster significance threshold) shown to be robust against false  
444 positives (Eklund et al., 2016), using automatic outlier deweighting (Woolrich, 2008).

#### 445 *Individual Differences (Group Level)*

446 Individuals vary on their reliance on others for decision-making, and this is a  
447 reasonably stable trait (McGuire, 1967). We harnessed these differences to test

relationships between behavioral influence of specific types of information, their effects  
neural correlates of value, and social influence on choice in other contexts.

Neural Effects x Behavior: The four measured influences on individual  
participant behavior (S effect, O effect, C effect and OC effect) were added, mean-  
centered, as between-participant covariates in a new group-level *Component Value*  
*fMRI Model* analysis. We asked if the behavioral O effect, S effect, their difference,  
and the OC effect predicted the sensitivity of the brain to these influences, highlighted  
by fMRI effects of  $O_A$ ,  $S_A$ , and  $O_A C_A$ . This analysis employed small volume correction  
within our *a-priori* anatomical region of interest, the vmPFC. This mask was created as  
the conjunction of all Harvard-Oxford Atlas regions falling within vmPFC with a range  
along the x axis of -18mm to +18mm and maximum height level of 18mm to cover,  
with some room for error. regions anatomically specified as vmPFC in prior studies  
(Mackey and Petrides, 2010).

Conformity and Self-Monitoring: To test the relationship of neural activity during  
the task to real-world behavior, we tested whether sensitivity to different sources of  
information during task execution ( $S_A$  and  $O_A$ ) related to self-reported self-reliance for  
decision-making (Conformity scale) and self-monitoring behavior by adding these as  
covariates in a separate group level analysis of the *Component Value fMRI Model*.  
Age and gender were also added as covariates.

vmPFC effects were insensitive to individual differences, so we explored  
outside this region. For the conformity comparison, we used small volume correction  
within regions identified to respond more to social conflict in proportion to individual  
differences of subsequent conformity in an independent study (Campbell-Meiklejohn et  
al., 2010). Social conflict being a driver of conformity in the brain (Wu), it was predicted

472 that those rating high on self-reported conformity would experience greater neural  
473 responses to conflict with agents.

474 While self-monitoring would not affect behavior in our task (with no live  
475 audience), individuals high in self-monitoring behavior might react differently social  
476 cues. With no *a priori* region of interest for this contrast, we used a whole-brain cluster-  
477 corrected analysis.

## 478 Results

479 While scanned with fMRI, participants repeatedly predicted the color of marbles  
480 to be drawn from an urn by balancing several sources of evidence: their own sample  
481 of marbles from the urn, predictions described as made by four other agents based on  
482 their private samples from the same urn, and those agents' confidences. We sought to  
483 measure subjects' reliance on the subject's sample vs. agents' choices, and  
484 particularly to examine the extent to which the influence of the agents' choices was  
485 modulated by their confidence. The latter is a key measure in this setting, for  
486 distinguishing behavior from simpler heuristics like imitation. This is because an  
487 agent's confidence implies the quality of the agent's knowledge informing the choice,  
488 and therefore the extent to which their opinion should be trusted. Indeed, a differential  
489 effect of confident agents can be captured in a Bayesian ideal-observer model  
490 (simulations not shown), which infers the proportion of marbles in the urn from the  
491 different sources of evidence, by inferring and marginalizing over the agents' private  
492 samples, with confidence as a signal of more decisive evidence.

493 **Behavior**

494 We used a multi-level mixed logistic regression to estimate parameters  
 495 reflecting how the tendency to predict red was influenced by each information source  
 496 that should monotonically affect it.

497 Each variable was established as a distinct contribution to choice behavior  
 498 (Table 1, Figure 2). At the group level, participants were more likely to predict red  
 499 following samples with more red (vs. green) marbles (**S**), more agents choosing red  
 500 (vs. green) (**O**), higher confidence of agents associated with red (**C<sub>R</sub>**) (regardless of  
 501 how many agents chose that color), and lower confidence for green (**C<sub>G</sub>**). The  
 502 magnitude of the coefficients for **S** and **O** indicates that four agents (at average  
 503 confidence) were relied on roughly the same amount as the sample of eight marbles,  
 504 meaning each of the agents' choices had impact approximately twice that of observing  
 505 a single marble in terms of information on this task. Table 1 additionally presents the  
 506 different variables effects in terms of AIC and variance explained according to  
 507 McFadden's (1974) pseudo- $R^2$ .

508 Our key question concerned the interaction, which measures whether agents'  
 509 choices have a differential effect when they are confident. Here, as hypothesized, we  
 510 found that effect of each agent's choice on participant decisions was greater when that  
 511 agent was confident ( $O_R C_R, O_G C_G$ ).

512 *Conformity and Self-Monitoring Scales*

513 We next considered whether individual differences in this relatively stylized laboratory  
 514 task tracked an index of real-world social behavior. Greater reliance on personal  
 515 samples during the Urn Task corresponded greater self-reliance for decision-making in  
 516 other social contexts ( $r = -.461$ ,  $P = .013$ , Mean Conformity Scale Score  $-3.7$  SD  $11.4$ )

(Figure 7A). Controlling for gender and age, the effect remained significant ( $r = -.37$ ,  $P = .049$ ). There was no relationship between the conformity scale and the effect of agents on behavior ( $P > .4$ ) most likely due to the complication of agent confidence. In contrast, self-monitoring relates specifically to behavioral adjustments to social cues to enhance reputation, would not be expected to show an effect in the absence of a live audience and this was confirmed by the data.

### Neuroimaging

We pursued a parallel strategy in the brain to distinguish influence of each information type on neural correlates of estimated value in vmPFC. As vmPFC activity is well known to track the degree to which the chosen option is correct or likely to be rewarded ("chosen value", often relative to the unchosen option) (Tanaka et al., 2004; Daw et al., 2006; Kim et al., 2006; O'Doherty et al., 2007; Behrens et al., 2008; Wunderlich et al., 2010), we redefined all of our explanatory variables in terms of information indicating the chosen (vs unchosen) option will be correct, rather than red vs. green. Therefore, neural results are described with respect to 'accordance' (evidence indicating that the subject's chosen option will be correct) vs 'discordance' (evidence indicating that the subject's choice will be incorrect). (Note that these are symmetric: evidence that the subjects' choice is correct is, equivalently evidence that the other is incorrect.)

Neuroimaging findings are reported as group-level cluster-corrected statistics with a cluster-forming voxel threshold of  $Z > 3$  and cluster significance level of  $P < 0.05$ . Results are described in format: [peak location in MNI coordinates (mm)],  $Z$  score of peak voxel,  $P$  value of cluster, size of cluster in voxels (and minimum cluster size at  $P < 0.05$ ). Scaling of variables should be considered when interpreting the results (i.e.



a change from 0 to 4 agents' choices is scaled the same as a change from 0 to 8 marbles in a sample). All observed effects relate to when all other variables are at their mean. Mean effect contrasts all endured whole-brain cluster correction. Only activations within the medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC) reported, as this is the focus of our study. Between-subject analysis employed small volume correction using independent masks of regions of interest (detailed in methods).

#### *Integrated Value fMRI Model*

Neural correlates of overall chosen value from all information sources were found in central vmPFC ( $[-8\ 50\ -8]$ ,  $Z_{\max} = 4.08$ ,  $P < .001$ , 410 voxels (min 76)). Negative correlations (higher activity when evidence favors the unchosen option more) correlated with dmPFC activity ( $[0\ 26\ 48]$ ,  $Z_{\max} = 4.82$ ,  $P < .001$ , 1345 voxels (min 76)). See Figure 3A).

#### *Component Value fMRI Model*

We then tested whether these correlates of integrated value could be decomposed according to the contribution of the different information sources (Figure 3B). For this we examined the effects of the same explanatory variables as the behavioral model, but expressed in terms of accordance vs. discordance with the subject's choice. Sample accordance ( $S_A$ ) predicted central vmPFC activity ( $[2\ 38\ -8]$ ,  $Z_{\max} = 4.12$ ,  $P < .001$ , 446 voxels (min 76)). Sample discordance (a negative effect of  $S_A$ ) increased dmPFC activity ( $[4\ 30\ 44]$ ,  $Z_{\max} = 4.1$ ,  $P < .001$ , 276 voxels (min 76)). Accordance of agents' choices ( $O_A$ ) similarly increased central vmPFC activity (peaks:  $[-2\ 22\ -12]$  and  $[-10\ 44\ -12]$ ,  $Z_{\max} = 4.19$ ,  $P < .001$ , 679 voxels (min 77)), while discordance of agents' choices (the negative effect of  $O_A$ ) increased dmPFC activation ( $[-2\ 20\ 46]$ ,  $Z_{\max} = 6.03$ ,  $P < 0.01$ , 797 voxels (min 77)). The conditional main effect of

agent confidence (of accordant or discordant choices) did not produce activation in MFPC at this threshold.

As with behavior, the key question concerned activity corresponding to the differential impact of agents' choices when they are confident vs. unconfident, captured by the interaction ( $\mathbf{O_A C_A}$ ). Such an interaction was observed for BOLD activity only in anterior mPFC (amPFC), primarily occupying ventromedial area 10, with a small extension through anterior 14m (Mackey and Petrides) (peaks [8 58 6] and [4 62 2]),  $Z_{\max} = 3.78$ , 85 voxels (min 79). This was the only activation for this contrast in the brain. Within this region, unconfident agent choices did little to influence the representation of value, while confident choices had a clear effect (see Figure 5).

#### *The Spatial Linear Parametric Effect*

Next, in order to formally examine the impression of spatial separation between the effects of the different information sources, we statistically compared spatial profiles of key effects of Component Value fMRI Model analysis ( $\mathbf{S_A}$ ,  $\mathbf{O_A}$ ,  $\mathbf{O_A C_A}$ ) along an anatomically defined axis from vmPFC to amPFC (Figure 4A). Only  $\mathbf{O_A C_A}$  increased its effect (in percent signal change) along this axis ( $\beta = .03$ ,  $SE = .01$ ,  $P = 0.04$ ). ( $\mathbf{S_A}$  and  $\mathbf{O_A}$   $P$ s  $> .27$ ), and the difference of response between these variables also varied along the axis:  $\mathbf{O_A C_A} - \mathbf{S_A}$  ( $\beta = .03$ ,  $SE = .01$ ,  $P = 0.045$ ) and  $\mathbf{O_A C_A} - \mathbf{O_A}$  ( $\beta = .03$ ,  $SE = .02$ ,  $P = 0.026$ ). This rejected the null hypothesis that value-based activity relying on different information sources has a common spatial profile.

Peristimulus plots along this axis reveal that, moving anteriorly, regions of vmPFC respond with increasing selectivity for value derived from confident agents. Neither effects of agents' accordant choices (independent of confidence) nor of accordant samples shared this anatomical specificity. See Figures 4 and 5.

589 *Individual Differences*

590        Neural Effects x Behavior: We next tested whether component neural  
 591 correlates predict component influence on decision-making behavior, using a between-  
 592 subject analysis. At the group level, the effects of different information sources on  
 593 choices, as estimated from behavior for each individual, were added as covariates to  
 594 the *Component Value fMRI Model*. Contrasts were made between them. Within a  
 595 mask of vmPFC and at a conservative cluster forming threshold ( $Z > 3$ ), we found that  
 596 weight placed on personal samples (S effect) predicted a greater neural response to  
 597 personal sample accordance with choice ( $S_A$ )  $[-6\ 54\ -4]$ ,  $Z_{\max} = 3.83$ ,  $P = 0.03$ , 32  
 598 voxels (min 28). Dorsal and anterior to this, relatively more weight placed on the  
 599 choices of agents (O effect – S effect) predicted a greater neural response to agents  
 600 ( $O_A$ )  $[-4\ 60\ 10]$ ,  $Z_{\max} = 4.02$ ,  $P = 0.05$ , 28 voxels (min 28). See Figure 6.

601        Conformity and Self-Monitoring Scales: Finally, we sought to test to test  
 602 whether neural effects during the experiment reflect real-world behavior. Conformity  
 603 scale scores predicted greater dmPFC activation when going with one's own sample  
 604  $[0\ 26\ 38]$ ,  $Z_{\max} = 5.02$ ,  $P = 0.006$ , 50 voxels (min 25), and activation just anterior to  
 605 rTPJ (supramarginal gyrus) in response to conflict with others choices  $[66\ -28\ 26]$ ,  $Z_{\max}$   
 606  $= 4.38$ ,  $P = 0.01$ , 40 voxels (min 25) (Figure 7B). Self-Monitoring, which reflects the  
 607 tendency to alter behavior in response to social cues from an audience, predicted a  
 608 greater response to increasing accordance with agents in activity extending into rTPJ  
 609 (peak  $[62\ -28\ 36]$   $Z_{\max} = 4.45$  with subpeak ( $Z = 4.08$ )  $[56\ -36\ 28]$ ,  $P = 0.003$ , 120  
 610 voxels (min 74). This indicated differential treatment of social agreement with greater  
 611 self-monitoring, even without a live audience (Figure 7C).

## Discussion

This study identified distinct behavioral and neural effects of distinct types of evidence used for making predictions. Behaviorally, each information type influenced decisions in a sensible direction. Confident agents had a greater influence on choices of participants – the hypothesized signature of complex, integrative use of information to evaluate options.

Collectively, increased reward expectancy from all evidence was tracked indiscriminately across a posterior to anterior axis in vmPFC, confirming earlier findings (e.g. Daw et al., 2006; Kim et al., 2006; Behrens et al., 2008; Wunderlich et al., 2010). However, this signal could also be decomposed according to the contribution of distinct components. Increased reward expectancy due to accordant samples and accordant agents' choices (irrespective of confidence) increased activity across vmPFC. In contrast, value that varied with accordant agents' choices but conditional on their confidence was preferentially represented in ventromedial regions of area 10. This is a distinct neurobiological marker of assurance from another person's confidence.

Segregation of value representations over regions of systematically varying cytoarchitecture is consistent with heterogeneity of their computation. The anatomical locations of confidence-based value processes are likely the resolution of computational requirements and connectivity of supporting anatomy. The cytoarchitecture and connectivity of amPFC suggests that value estimates from confident agents specifically involve a form of higher-order cognition (Ongur et al., 2003; Mackey and Petrides, 2010; Sepulcre et al., 2010). While influences of agents in the task can be modelled (as in our regression) simply as the counting of agents'

636 choices weighted by their confidence – the weighting itself is a signature of the  
 637 variable's metacognitive treatment.

638         The nature of this treatment, and how it relates to anterior vmPFC is not yet  
 639 known. One possibility is the use of inference. The Urn Task can be solved by using  
 640 statistical inference to infer the contents of the urn given the observed evidence. This  
 641 requires marginalizing agents' private samples, whose quality is inferred from an  
 642 interaction of agents' choice and confidence. In principle, Bayes' rule can be invoked  
 643 to infer (and then marginalize out) the probable state of the agents' samples. This  
 644 could involve inferences of agents' knowledge from their behavior which would  
 645 account for BA 10 involvement (Frith and Frith, 2012). Such computations are likely  
 646 part of a broader class of inferential influences on choice (Tolman, 1948; Hampton et  
 647 al., 2006, 2008; Daw et al., 2011; Solway and Botvinick, 2012). Additionally, BA 10  
 648 involvement could relate the confluence of cognitive processes (Ramnani and Owen,  
 649 2004; Zaki, 2013), such as the integration of observed and non-observable information  
 650 (Burgess et al., 2007).

651         Both inferential and integrative processes are useful because they flexibly allow  
 652 a naïve observer to make decisions in new environments. In social contexts, they  
 653 allow for adaptable valuation using shifting combinations of inferred knowledge,  
 654 intentions, impulsivity, and optimism of others before deciding how to use their choices  
 655 to inform one's own. From this perspective, our findings support a theory that the  
 656 evolution of area 10 could relate to cognitive specialization that optimizes decision-  
 657 making in human cultures with the complexity of human expression (Povinelli and  
 658 Preuss, 1995; Dunbar and Shultz, 2007).

659         It less likely that differences between neural correlates of value relate to a  
 660 difference of mathematic heuristics: these regions do not come up in fMRI contrasts of

661 counting methods, addition or multiplication (Piazza et al., 2002; Kawashima et al.,  
 662 2004). Similarly, while previous studies have examined associative learning in social  
 663 contexts (Behrens et al., 2008; Hampton et al., 2008; Burke et al., 2010), associative  
 664 learning was precluded in the present study by the omission of trial outcomes and  
 665 infrequent repetition of agents.

666 Previously, however, neuroscience has highlighted the relationship between  
 667 mPFC and associative learning about the reliability of others. For example, Behrens et  
 668 al (2008) showed that mPFC is recruited to update beliefs about the accuracy of  
 669 advice. Meshi et al (2012) and Boorman et al (2013) found that mPFC is related to  
 670 using and evaluating the another's expertise. It will be interesting to explore how  
 671 inferential and associative learning about the reliability of others relate.

672 Nicolle et al (2012) found that ventral-dorsal vmPFC axis delineates action-  
 673 relevant from action-irrelevant preferences. Subsequent work has shown that  
 674 individual differences of value representation along a (ventral-dorsal) vmPFC axis also  
 675 distinguishes self- and other-regarding individuals (Sul et al., 2015). In the present  
 676 study, we found that ventral area 10 does represent action-relevant preferences, but  
 677 depending on the computations required. It may be the abstract nature of the  
 678 calculation (counterfactual choice in the previous study, abstractly inferred or  
 679 integrated information in the present) that determines amPFC involvement. Indeed,  
 680 specificity across the posterior to anterior vmPFC axis, may relate to similar  
 681 anatomical distinctions between primary and secondary rewards (McNamee et al.,  
 682 2013; Sescousse et al., 2013; Clithero and Rangel, 2014; Li et al., 2015).

683 dmPFC activity was negatively correlated with estimated value from various  
 684 sources of information. As in most decision tasks, the value of the action and  
 685 uncertainty/conflict associated with that value are inversely correlated, though not

686 perfectly coupled. This is because, for instance, it is more difficult to choose the  
 687 correct option for choices with conflicting information. Given the literature on correlates  
 688 of different decision variables in midline prefrontal cortex, the activity we observed in  
 689 anterior cingulate may reflect a form of conflict (Botvinick et al., 2004) or a cost-benefit  
 690 process that accounts for both conflict and reduced likelihood of reward (Rushworth et  
 691 al., 2011).

692       If a participant was more likely to be influenced by the personal sample, BOLD  
 693 activity in central vmPFC varied more with the accordance of the sample with their  
 694 imminent choice. Similarly, if a participant was more likely to be influenced by the  
 695 choices of agents (relative to the personal sample) BOLD activity in amPFC varied  
 696 more with accordance of agents' choices with their imminent choice. This suggests  
 697 that the tendency to be influenced by an information source can be tracked, to an  
 698 extent, by the sensitivity of that individual to supporting information from that source,  
 699 within specific mPFC anatomy.

700       Social behavior outside the lab (i.e. conformity) was inversely correlated with  
 701 the influence of private evidence during the task. In vmPFC, conformity and self-  
 702 monitoring in other contexts did predict activations. However, exploration outside of  
 703 this region revealed a link between neural responses to task influences, and the  
 704 tendency to be socially influenced in other contexts. The tendency to adopt the  
 705 decisions of others outside the lab predicted increased supramarginal gyrus responses  
 706 to conflict with agents, just anterior to rTPJ (Figure 7B). It also predicted increased  
 707 dmPFC activity when going with one's own sample. These results replicate findings  
 708 that the tendency to conform socially can be predicted by the neural response to social  
 709 conflict in these regions (Campbell-Meiklejohn et al., 2010; for meta-analysis see Wu  
 710 et al., 2016). Activity within rTPJ that correlates with reward expectancy from

711 observing agent choices (Figure 7C), in high-self-monitors may relate to findings that  
712 reward expectancies from observing choices of others can recruit theory-of-mind-like  
713 processes (Bruguier et al., 2010; De Martino et al., 2013). This occurs in the absence  
714 of a live audience, suggesting that self-monitoring relates to cognitive processes that  
715 are somewhat independent of an action's immediate social consequences. Stimulation  
716 of the rTPJ region enhances the tendency to take another's perspective (Santiesteban  
717 et al., 2012) and its activity has been previously shown to increase when determining  
718 the relevance of someone else's behavior for one's decision-making (Carter et al.,  
719 2012). Although social interactions in the task were simulated and stylized, their  
720 relevance to real-world social settings is supported by these findings.

721       While results are relevant to real social contexts, we do not suggest that the  
722 highlighted processes are exclusive to the social domain. Indeed, the task's logic is  
723 based on comparing inferences from different sorts of information rather than social  
724 and non-social frames. This reflects the case for the coevolution of general cognitive  
725 faculties and social ability (Humphrey, 1976; Emery et al., 2007). Correspondingly,  
726 research has shown that the physiology of value representations in 'social' and 'non-  
727 social' contexts are similar, when similar processes are employed and similar models  
728 applied (Izuma et al., 2008; Zink et al., 2008; Takahashi et al., 2009; Campbell-  
729 Meiklejohn et al., 2010; Tricomi et al., 2010; Biele et al., 2011; Lin et al., 2011; Bartra  
730 et al., 2013; Boorman et al., 2013). The present results suggest that any differences  
731 between social and non-social valuation processes in vmPFC may be proportional to  
732 differential use of higher-order computation, and in future this may prove to be the  
733 most flexible definition of a 'social' reward.



734 **Conclusions**

735       The finding that decision-related signals in vmPFC are segmented by the  
 736 unique cognitive requisites of their computation is an important step in our  
 737 understanding of the representation of value in the brain. Concurrently, our findings  
 738 provide new neurobiological insight into the transmission of value information between  
 739 individuals and the mechanism by which confidence expressed by others assure or  
 740 discourage us in our decisions. Looking to the future, the findings present new  
 741 questions as to how distinct valuation processes with separate neural mechanisms  
 742 can be independently altered by experience, damage, and treatment.

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902

903 **Figure Legends**

904 **Figure 1. Urn Task.** On each trial: (i) A new urn of randomly mixed marbles is  
 905 presented. Contents are hidden. (ii) Animation of five hands individually reaching for  
 906 five different samples from the urn occurs (parts i and ii last 1.5 to 2s). (iii) Predictions  
 907 of the *next* marble drawn from the urn, and their associated confidence in those  
 908 predictions of four agents shown. Agents were represented as sepia toned faces with  
 909 neutral expression. Agents' predictions were expressed by the colour of the circle  
 910 positioned next to their face. Confidence indicated as the expression within that circle  
 911 and the speed at which the answer was shown (rapid + smug = high confidence).  
 912 Agents' answers took between 300 and 2500ms to appear. Once agents' choices were  
 913 in, they remained on the screen for 1250s. (iv) Next, the participant's own sample of  
 914 marbles appeared from the bottom of the screen was displayed with all other  
 915 information for a further 1250ms. The sample contained 8 marbles, with one to seven  
 916 of them being red. This was the event modelled in the fMRI analysis. (v) Finally, the  
 917 participant is asked to make a prediction (red or green). No choice feedback was  
 918 provided.

919 **Figure 2. Behavioural Effects.** Probability (mean proportion) of choices for red as a  
 920 function of: reds in sample, frequency and confidence of red choices by agents, and  
 921 frequency and confidence of green choices by agents. Error bars are standard error.

922 **Figure 3. Neural Representation of Value in vmPFC.** Activations colour-coded with  
 923 respect to amount of evidence supporting the likelihood of the participant's choice  
 924 being correct (Clusters Defined by  $Z > 3.0$ , Cluster Sig  $P < 0.05$ ) **A:** neural  
 925 representation of value from the *Integrated Value fMRI Model* combining all available  
 926 information. **B:** Distribution and overlap of activity correlating with increasing value  
 927 computed from information sources of the *Component Value fMRI Model*. **C:**

928 Distribution and overlap of activity correlating with increasing value computed from  
 929 information sources of the *Component Value fMRI Model*.

930 **Figure 4. Effect Time-Courses Across vmPFC.** **A.** Anatomically defined spherical  
 931 regions of interest spanning the superior medial gyrus from area 14m (Mackey and  
 932 Petrides, 2010) to ventromedial area 10. **B.** Plots of mean effects of interest within the  
 933 *Component Value fMRI Model* across 5 Time bins are 2.8s (1 TR) beginning at the  
 934 onset of agents' responses. Figure shows relative non-specificity of  $S_A$  and  $O_A$  across  
 935 the region, the increasing specificity of  $O_A C_A$  toward dorsoanterior regions, and the  
 936 sustained response to agents' choices  $O_A$  into the response window of  $S_A$ . Error bars  
 937 are standard error.

938 **Figure 5. Effects of Confident and Unconfident Agents across vmPFC.** Mean  
 939 effect of an adapted *Component Value fMRI Model* that separates effects of confident  
 940 agents' choices from unconfident agents' choices across the 5 spheres and time bins  
 941 of Figure 4. Figure shows the increasing specificity of socially-learned value that is  
 942 contingent on agents' confidence toward dorsoanterior regions of vmPFC. Error bars  
 943 are standard error.

944 **Figure 6. Individual Differences of Task Behavior:** Effects of information sources  
 945 on choices, for each individual, were added as covariates to the *Component Value*  
 946 *fMRI Model* analysis. vmPFC responses to  $S_A$  are predicted by the influence of  
 947 samples on choice behavior. amPFC responses to  $O_A$  are predicted by the relative  
 948 influence of agents (O effect – S effect) on choice behavior.

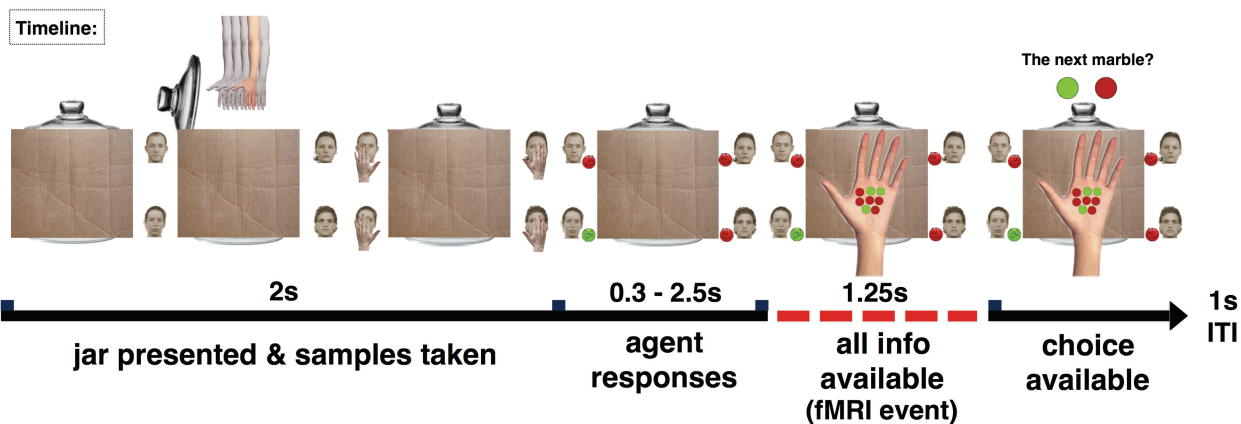
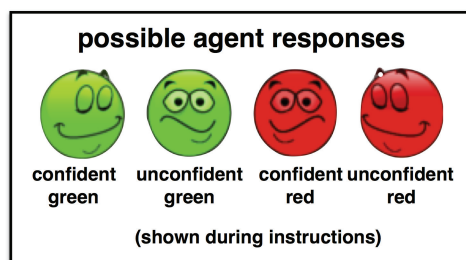
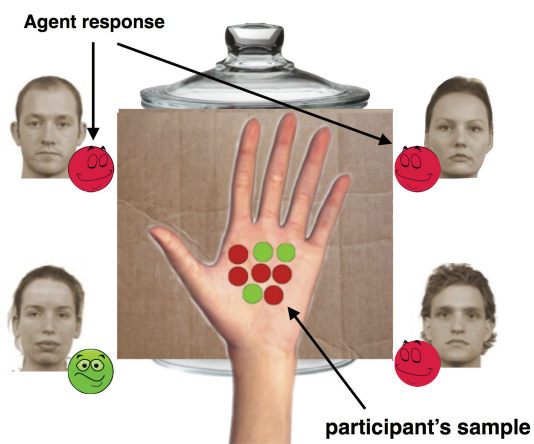
949 **Figure 7. Social Influence in Other Situations.** **A.** Scatterplot showing relationship  
 950 between the use of one's own sample during the Urn Task (arbitrary units) and self-  
 951 reported reliance on agents outside the lab. **B** Between-subjects those more likely to

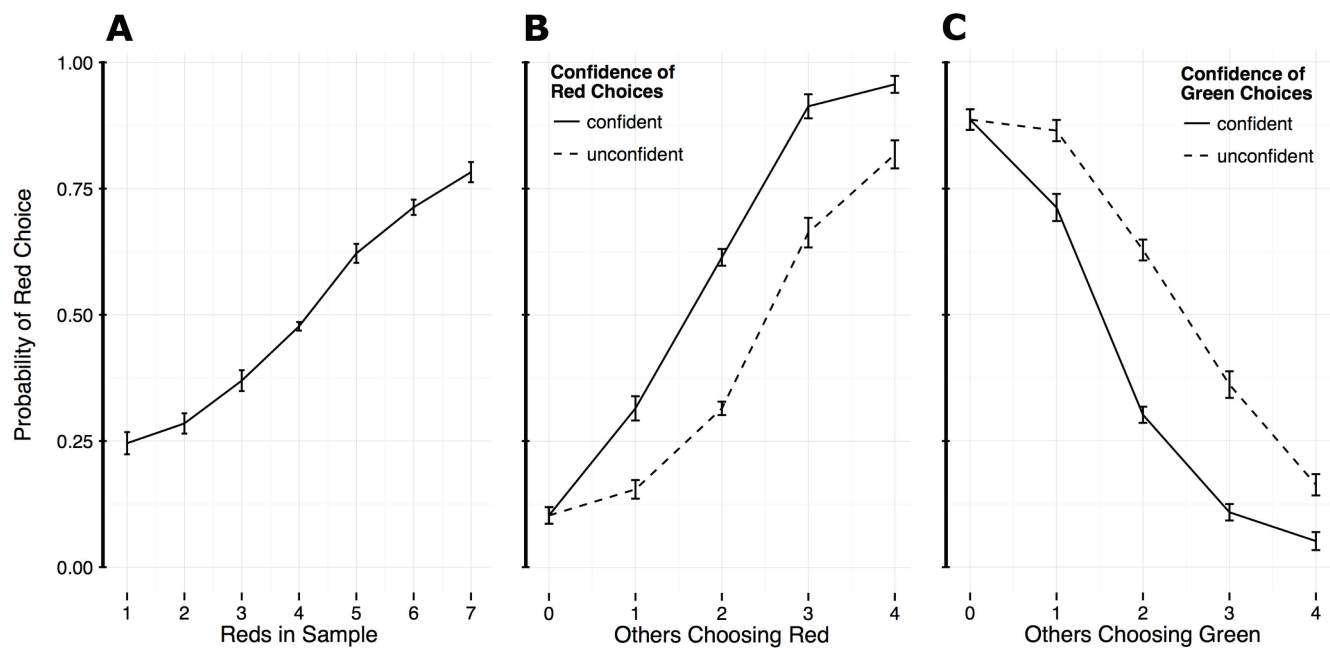


952 conform in other social situations respond more to conflict with agents and less conflict  
953 with personal samples within regions previously shown predict conformity from social  
954 conflict responses (Campbell-Meiklejohn et al., 2010). **C.** Between subjects, rTPJ  
955 responds more to accordance of agents' choices in proportion to tendency to adapt  
956 behaviour to social cues in real-world situations (self-monitoring).

957





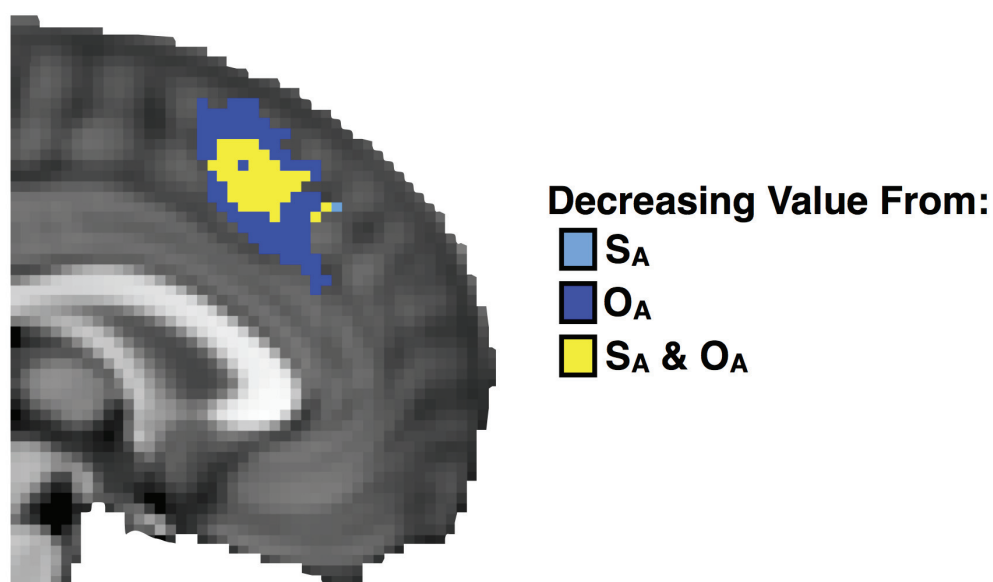
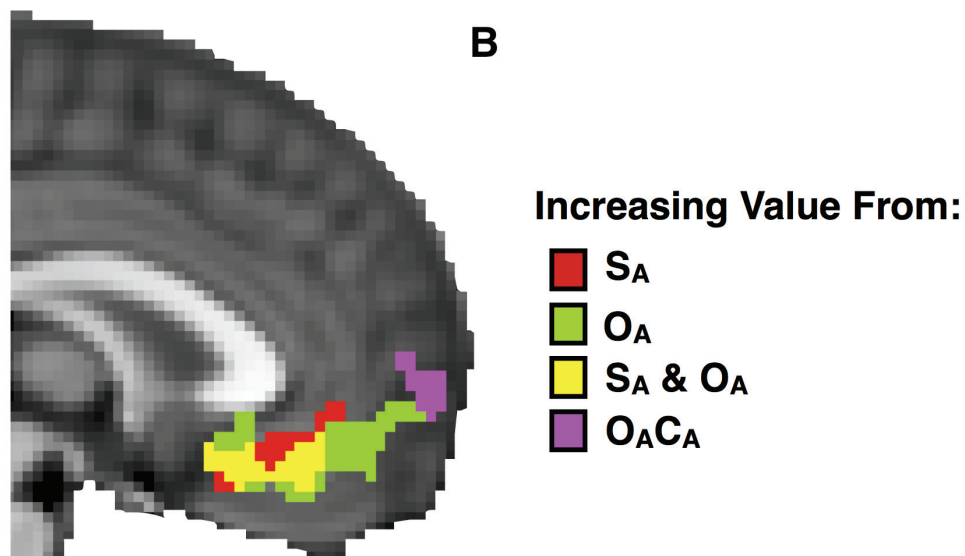
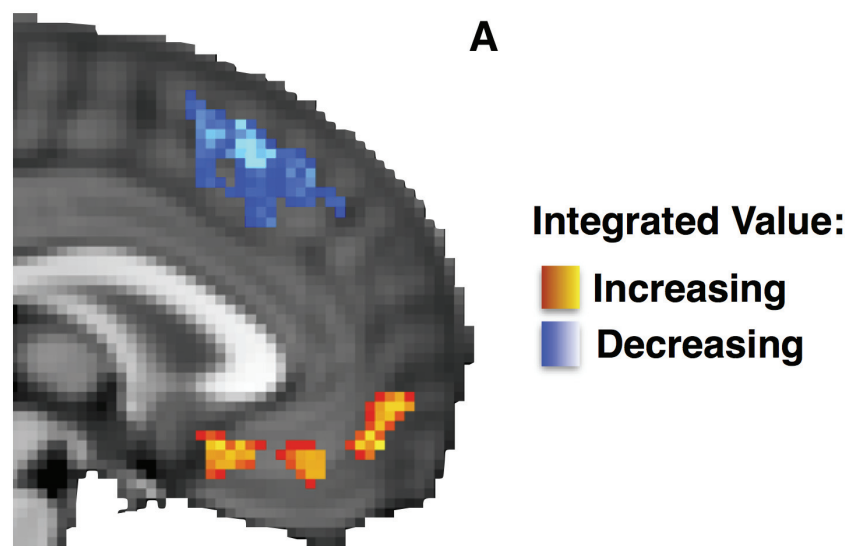


**Table 1. Fixed Effects from Mixed Effects Logistic Regression of Each Variable's Effect on Choice of Red**

Variable	$\beta$	SE	P	Partial R <sup>2</sup>	$\Delta$ AIC
(Intercept)	-0.03	0.07	0.62		
Proportion of Sample That is Red (S)	10.26	0.87	<0.001	0.38	1160
Proportion of Agents Choosing Red (O)	9.96	0.75	<0.001	0.55	2297
Confidence of Agents Choosing Red (C <sub>R</sub> )	2.57	0.30	<0.001	0.15	321
Confidence of Agents Choosing Green (C <sub>G</sub> )	-2.61	0.30	<0.001	0.15	332
Proportion of Agents Choosing Red x Confidence (O <sub>R</sub> C <sub>R</sub> )	1.78	0.53	<0.001	0.01	8.2
Proportion of Agents Choosing Green x Confidence (O <sub>G</sub> C <sub>G</sub> )	-1.40	0.53	0.01	0.01	0.4

R<sup>2</sup> of full model is .68 (McFadden's Pseudo R<sup>2</sup>)

Partial R<sup>2</sup> calculated as 1 - (log likelihood of full model / log likelihood of model without designated predictor). Corresponding change in AIC value also provided.



**x = 0 mm**

