Special Issue

State of the Art in Human Attachment

Message from the Guest Editor

Attachment is a biological emotion regulation-based system guiding cognitive and emotional processes with respect to intimate and significant relationships. Research on the neurobiological basis of attachment started with animal studies. Recently, it has been investigated using an array of different neuroscientific approaches to study several attachment systems (caregiving, sexual, affiliative) as well as mentalization and attachment representations in humans. Most studies focused on healthy populations.

We aim to detail the most recent research in the neuroscience of human attachment: 1) the achievement of an interdisciplinary synthesis of new perspectives and methodologies examining the neuroscience of human attachment in different age groups, including clinical and non-clinical groups; 2) the identification of risk and resilience factors in the intergenerational transmission of attachment in risk groups for a further understanding of biopsychosocial underpinnings; 3) state of the art of neuroscientific approaches to improve the understanding of psychological disorders with a history of adverse attachment experiences and to inform or evaluate attachment-based interventions.

Guest Editor

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