

## **Rewiring Social Brains: How AI and Social Media Target and Transform Evolutionary Shaped Social and Reward Circuits**

**Benjamin Becker**

The computational processes and neural circuits of the human brain have been evolutionarily shaped to seek rewards and process social signals. These mechanisms are now actively targeted, and likely reshaped, by novel technologies, particularly social media and conversational artificial intelligence (AI). Drawing on empirical evidence, this talk will outline how new technologies influence these processes and the underlying brain systems, while also critically examining current limitations. The talk concludes by presenting a novel framework that illustrates how interactions with AI and chatbots are inherently shaped – and will be shaped by shaped – evolutionarily sculpted social computations, highlighting opportunities and risks.