Stanford MEDICINE Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Stanford Psychedelic Science Group

presents:

Demystifying the Brain's Default Mode

Dr. Anish Mitra, MD PhD

Thursday January 7
6:00pm PST

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Abstract:

Preliminary neuroimaging data showed psilocybin ingestion to correlate with a reduction in the intrinsic connectivity of the brain's 'default mode network' (DMN). Some researchers have suggested a link between this neural state, behavioral flexibility, the subjective experience of "ego dissolution", and the potentially therapeutic effects of psychedelics. However, many questions remain about the specificity and relevance of this effect. Dr. Mitra will present the state of neuroscientific understanding of the DMN with commentary on its discovery, relation to psychiatric conditions, and a perspective on the recent data implicating DMN changes in psychedelic research.

Bio:

Anish received his B.S. in Mathematics at Stanford prior to completing his MD/PhD at Washington University in Saint Louis. In the course of his graduate work with Marcus Raichle, the neuroscientist who discovered the default mode network, Anish studied systems level spontaneous activity using human fMRI and widefield calcium imaging and electrophysiology in mice. Now a psychiatry resident in the research track and new member of the Deisseroth Lab, he uses imaging and brain stimulation techniques to investigate the mechanisms underlying organized patterns in brain-wide activity.