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The model of Self-confidence and its calibration through the eyes of the individual differences approach: Their generality and their role in learning and decision-making.

The study of decision-making has the potential to provide theoretical and diagnostic frameworks in many areas, including psychology, education, medicine, economics and law. In the field of decision-making, knowledge calibration is a major paradigm. It concerns self-monitoring in terms of the confidence judgments people assign to events (answers to questions, decisions, predictions) and their correspondence to the accuracy of those events.

When confidence levels are measured across different items - from cognitive tests and knowledge domains - a broad Confidence factor emerges, reflecting the stability of those judgments. This factor is well-established in differential psychology as an index higher than the ‘knowledge’ level of cognition, an important component of metacognition. Similar, albeit weaker, findings exist for bias and discrimination calibration indices.

This talk focuses on test-taking situations where people are given questions from a variety of cognitive domains including Fluid and Crystallized cognitive abilities, medical diagnostic domain, life-events and general opinions, and are asked to quantify the level of their confidence in each answer. Findings from several studies conducted in our laboratory (on adults and school-aged children) will be presented in the light of the individual differences paradigm. I will use this approach as the framework for an integrative model of confidence judgments, and will discuss their predictive validity and determinants in a variety of learning and decision-making contexts.