

## Risky business: Your brain may be wired to take chances

Using brain scans, a new study has observed a link between connections in the brain and the ability of the person to tolerate economic risk. The [paper](#) titled “Amygdala Functional and Structural Connectivity Predicts Individual Risk Tolerance” was published in the journal Neuron on April 5.

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108 participants were recruited for the study. First, they were asked to answer questionnaires involving 120 different scenarios. The answers were used to classify where the individuals stood on a spectrum ranging from extremely risk-averse to extremely risk-seeking.

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By analyzing the brain structures and the questionnaire data, it was found that participants with a higher tolerance for risk had more gray matter (a larger amygdala) and displayed more functional amygdala-mPFC connectivity than those with a lower tolerance for risk.

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“Just by looking at these features of your brain, we could have a reasonable idea if you are someone who will take lots of risk or not,” [says researcher Joseph Kable.]

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But given the early stages of the research, it is too soon to understand whether a system could be designed and implemented with regards to business investments or gambling disorders. “Risk taking is a complex phenomenon that is likely influenced by many factors. It seems like a big leap to go from a lab study to using this technology to inform financial decisions,” [added](#) Professor Timothy Caulfield.

**Read full, original post:** [Do You Take Unnecessary Risks? Your Brain Structure Could Be To Blame](#)