

## Cognitive signals in the amygdala

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Emotions can influence cognitive operations like attention and perception, and, at the same time, cognitive operations often regulate our emotions. The amygdala has long been recognized as a critical structure mediating emotional processes, and it is heavily interconnected with brain structures involved in implementing cognitive operations. Nonetheless, limited information exists about how cognitive processes impinge upon amygdala physiological function, nor how amygdala neural responses may influence cognitive functions. I will present new data revealing a role for the amygdala in representing cognitive as well as emotional (or motivational) information. These data begin to illuminate how the amygdala may mediate interactions between cognitive and emotional processing.