

Positive neuroscience

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Abstrak

This volume describes research supported by the John Templeton Foundations Positive Neuroscience Project, aimed at illuminating the neural mechanisms that promote human flourishing. The contributors and Project awardees include internationally renowned neuroscientists whose work has shaped and reshaped our understanding of human nature. Part I (Social Bonds) describes the mechanisms that enable humans to connect with one another. Part II (Altruism) focuses on the neural mechanisms underlying the human ability and willingness to confer costly benefits on others. Part III (Resilience and Creativity) examines the mechanisms by which human brains overcome adversity, create, and discover. Specific topics include a newly discovered nerve type that appears to be specialized for emotional communication, the effects of parenting on the male brain, how human altruism differs from that of other primates, the neural features of extraordinary altruists who have donated kidneys to strangers, and distinctive patterns of brain wiring that endow some people with exceptional musical abilities.