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Selective prefrontal-amygdala circuit interactions underlie social and nonsocial valuation in rhesus macaques

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3
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5
6 **Author Names:** Maia S. Pujara, Nicole K. Ciesinski, Joseph F. Reylets, Sarah E.V. Rhodes, and
7 Elisabeth A. Murray

8
9 **Author Affiliation:**

10 Section on the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory, Laboratory of Neuropsychology,
11 National Institute of Mental Health, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892

12
13 **Corresponding author:**

14
15 Elisabeth A. Murray, Ph.D.
16 Laboratory of Neuropsychology, NIMH
17 Building 49, Suite 1B80
18 49 Convent Drive
19 Bethesda, MD 20892-4415 USA
20 Ph: 301-443-7401
21 Fax: 301-402-0046
22 Email: murraye@mail.nih.gov

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45 Lawrence College, 1 Mead Way, Bronxville, NY 10708); NKC (Temple University, 1701 N

46 Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19122); SEVR (Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and
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48 **Abstract**

49 Lesion studies in macaques suggest dissociable functions of the orbitofrontal cortex (OFC) and
50 medial frontal cortex (MFC), with OFC being essential for goal-directed decision making and
51 MFC supporting social cognition. Bilateral amygdala damage results in impairments in both of
52 these domains. There are extensive reciprocal connections between these prefrontal areas and the
53 amygdala; however, it is not known whether the dissociable roles of OFC and MFC depend on
54 functional interactions with the amygdala. To test this possibility, we compared the performance
55 of male rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) with crossed surgical disconnection of the amygdala
56 and either MFC (MFC x AMY, $n=4$) or OFC (OFC x AMY, $n=4$) to a group of unoperated
57 controls (CON, $n=5$). All monkeys were assessed for their performance on two tasks to measure:
58 (1) food-retrieval latencies while viewing videos of social and nonsocial stimuli in a test of social
59 interest, and (2) object choices based on current food value using reinforcer devaluation in a test
60 of goal-directed decision making. Compared to the CON group, the MFC x AMY group, but not
61 the OFC x AMY group, showed significantly reduced food-retrieval latencies while viewing
62 videos of conspecifics, indicating reduced social valuation and/or interest. By contrast, on the
63 devaluation task, group OFC x AMY, but not group MFC x AMY, displayed deficits on object
64 choices following changes in food value. These data indicate that the MFC and OFC must
65 functionally interact with the amygdala to support normative social and nonsocial valuation,
66 respectively.

67

68 **Significance Statement**

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70

Ascribing value to conspecifics (social) vs. objects (nonsocial) may be supported by
71 distinct but overlapping brain networks. Here we test whether two nonoverlapping regions of the
72 prefrontal cortex, the medial frontal cortex and the orbitofrontal cortex, must causally interact
73 with the amygdala to sustain social valuation and goal-directed decision making, respectively.
74 We found that these prefrontal-amygdala circuits are functionally dissociable, lending support
75 for the idea that medial frontal and orbital frontal cortex make independent contributions to
76 cognitive appraisals of the environment. These data provide a neural framework for distinct
77 value assignment processes and may enhance our understanding of the cognitive deficits
78 observed following brain injury or in the development of mental health disorders.

79

80 **Introduction**

81 Both individual and collective fitness contribute to the evolutionary success of anthropoid
82 primates, including macaques. In their natural habitats, macaques gain advantages for survival by
83 optimizing behaviors that lead to beneficial outcomes both for themselves and their group. In a
84 laboratory setting, monkeys, like humans, develop and express transitive subjective preferences
85 for different foodstuffs (Tremblay and Schultz, 1999; Padoa-Schioppa et al., 2006; Martin et al.,
86 2018) and juices (Tremblay and Schultz, 1999; Padoa-Schioppa and Assad, 2006). Macaques
87 also forego juice rewards to view images of female perinea (i.e., sex skin) and dominant male
88 monkey faces (Deaner and Platt, 2003; Deaner et al., 2005), which suggests that social cues have
89 intrinsic value. Although assigning value to foods and/or conspecifics and the stimuli that predict
90 them is a central feature of cognition, evidence suggests that these processes are supported by
91 distinct neural networks. In this study, we examined the neuroanatomical basis of two aspects of
92 biological value in macaques: nonsocial objects associated with food rewards and social signals
93 conveyed by conspecifics.

94 Neuropsychological research in humans points to a causal role for the amygdala and
95 ventromedial frontal cortex (VMF) in carrying out these essential higher-order functions.
96 Patients with Urbach-Wiethe disease who experience selective bilateral amygdala damage are
97 profoundly impaired both in their ability to learn from social information (Rosenberger et al.,
98 2019) and making rational decisions (Brand et al., 2007; Talmi et al., 2010). Similarly, patients
99 with lesions of the VMF, which typically compromises substantial portions of both orbital and
100 medial sectors of the frontal cortex, are impaired in both social cognition (Eslinger and Damasio,
101 1985; Barrash et al., 2000; Hornak et al., 2003; Mah et al., 2004; Beer et al., 2006; Ciaramelli et
102 al., 2007; Jenkins et al., 2014; Hiser and Koenigs, 2018) and rational or goal-directed decision

103 making (Eslinger and Damasio, 1985; Anderson et al., 1999; Fellows and Farah, 2003; Camille
104 et al., 2004; Koenigs and Tranel, 2007; Wheeler and Fellows, 2008; Pujara et al., 2015; Reber et
105 al., 2017; Barrash et al., 2018; Hiser and Koenigs, 2018).

106 Because brain damage in humans rarely respects boundaries of individual structures,
107 teasing apart the contributions of the medial frontal cortex (MFC) and orbitofrontal cortex (OFC)
108 and their independent networks depends on studies in nonhuman primates, where targeting these
109 areas individually and testing circuit interactions is more tractable (Vaidya et al., 2019). Studies
110 in macaques suggest specializations for MFC and OFC in social and nonsocial valuation,
111 respectively. Whereas the OFC is involved in value coding, updating stimulus-outcome
112 associations, and value-based decision making (Padoa-Schioppa and Assad, 2006; Padoa-
113 Schioppa, 2011; Wallis, 2011; Murray and Rudebeck, 2018), the MFC has been implicated in
114 social cognition (Rudebeck et al., 2006; Noonan et al., 2010a; Lockwood et al., 2020) and
115 encoding of rewards for the self and others (Chang et al., 2013). Given the known reciprocal
116 anatomical connections between the amygdala and both the MFC and OFC (Carmichael and
117 Price, 1995; Ghashghaei and Barbas, 2002; Saleem et al., 2008), it is possible that the MFC and
118 OFC must functionally interact with the amygdala to support these processes (Gangopadhyay et
119 al., 2021). If so, these prefrontal-amygdala circuits may be separable in empirical tests of their
120 functions.

121 Although there is evidence that OFC-amygdala interactions support value-based decision
122 making by Baxter et al. (2000), the aspiration OFC lesions in that study may have involved
123 damage to fibers of passage (Rudebeck et al., 2013b); therefore, using selective, excitotoxic
124 lesions to update the interpretation of this circuit's function would be timely. No macaque lesion
125 studies to date have examined OFC- and MFC-amygdala interactions in social cognition. We

126 predicted that, relative to intact controls, monkeys with crossed surgical disconnection of the
127 MFC and the amygdala would be impaired in evaluating naturalistic videos of conspecifics, but
128 not goal-directed decision-making, whereas monkeys with crossed surgical disconnection of the
129 OFC and the amygdala would show the opposite pattern of results.

130

131 **Materials and Methods**

132

133 **Subjects**

134 Thirteen adult male rhesus monkeys (*Macaca mulatta*) served as subjects. All monkeys
135 were obtained from a domestic breeding colony. Macaques were born and raised in outdoor
136 corrals—with access to shelter from the elements—in groups ranging from ~10-50 individuals.
137 When macaques were roughly 3-5 years of age, they were transported to the NIH Animal Center
138 to undergo quarantine and then ultimately brought to our animal facility. Veterinarians and
139 technicians trained in macaque husbandry were on site at the breeding colony to monitor the
140 monkeys' health and well-being throughout the rearing period. Upon transfer to our facility,
141 animals were housed and enriched in a manner consistent with the Guide for Care and Use of
142 Laboratory Animals.

143 Four monkeys sustained unilateral aspiration lesions of the MFC targeting area 32
144 (Carmichael and Price, 1994) and four monkeys sustained unilateral excitotoxic lesions of the
145 OFC targeting Walker's areas 11, 13, and 14 (Walker, 1940). All operated monkeys sustained
146 excitotoxic amygdala lesions in the hemisphere contralateral to their cortical lesions (i.e., crossed
147 lesions). The crossed-surgical disconnection eliminates the direct functional interaction of the
148 amygdala with either the MFC (MFC x AMY group) or the OFC (OFC x AMY group). If direct
149 functional interaction of the amygdala with either prefrontal cortex region is necessary for the

150 behaviors assessed in our tasks, then monkeys in those surgical groups should be impaired
151 relative to unoperated controls. Our study design also controls for the effects, if any, of unilateral
152 amygdala damage and two-stage surgery. The remaining five monkeys were retained as
153 unoperated controls (CON). Monkeys weighed between 7.1 kg and 15.2 kg (mean: 9.5 kg) and
154 all were at least five years old at the start of testing. All training and testing was conducted
155 postoperatively, starting with an action-outcome reinforcer devaluation task previously described
156 in Fiuzat et al. (2017), followed by a social valuation task and an object-outcome reinforcer
157 devaluation task described below. Importantly, all monkeys had the same training history.

158 Removal of certain brain regions (e.g., amygdala, orbitofrontal cortex, medial frontal
159 cortex) has been reported to result in alterations in emotional and social behavior (Dicks et al.,
160 1969; Kling, 1972; Emery et al., 2001; Hadland et al., 2003; Izquierdo et al., 2005). Accordingly,
161 monkeys were singly housed out of concern for their safety per historic convention. To control
162 for housing conditions, the unoperated controls were likewise housed singly. All macaques had
163 visual and auditory contact with several other conspecifics in the animal housing room, were
164 kept on a 12-h light-dark cycle (lights on at 7:00 A.M.), maintained on controlled access to
165 primate chow supplemented with fruit to ensure sufficient motivation to respond in the test
166 apparatus, and given access to water 24 hours a day. Testing occurred during the light period. All
167 procedures were reviewed and approved by the NIMH Animal Care and Use Committee.

168 Surgery

169 Eight monkeys received surgery in two stages to produce crossed surgical disconnection
170 of the amygdala and either the MFC or OFC. All operated monkeys sustained amygdala damage
171 in one hemisphere and damage of either MFC (MFC x AMY) or OFC (OFC x AMY) in the other
172 hemisphere; groups were balanced for site (frontal cortex, amygdala) and hemisphere (left, right)

173 of first surgery. For the purpose of relating the location of our intended lesions to other
174 commonly employed anatomical frameworks, we note that the intended MFC lesion in our study
175 corresponds approximately to area 32, also known as prelimbic cortex or pregenual cortex
176 (Barbas and Pandya, 1989; Carmichael and Price, 1994), and the intended OFC lesion
177 corresponds approximately to areas 11l, 11m, 13l, 13m, 13b, 14r, 14c, and 10m (Carmichael and
178 Price, 1994). The intended amygdala lesion encompassed both the basolateral and centromedial
179 nuclear groups.

180 At the time of surgery, anesthesia was induced with ketamine hydrochloride (10 mg/kg,
181 i.m.) and maintained with isoflurane (1.0-3.0%, to effect). Heart rate, respiration rate, blood
182 pressure, expired CO₂, and body temperature were monitored during surgery and isotonic fluids
183 were given throughout. Aseptic procedures were used. After completing the series of ibotenate
184 injections (excitotoxic) or combination of suction and cautery (aspiration), the surgical site was
185 closed in anatomical layers with sutures. The preoperative and postoperative treatment regimen
186 consisted of dexamethasone sodium phosphate (0.4 mg/kg, i.m.) and cefazolin antibiotic (15
187 mg/kg, i.m.) for one day before surgery and one week after surgery to reduce swelling and
188 prevent infection, respectively. At the end of surgery and for two additional days, the monkeys
189 received the analgesic ketoprofen (10-15 mg, i.m.), followed by ibuprofen (100 mg) for the
190 following five days. Operations were separated by a minimum of two weeks. Postoperative
191 behavioral testing was initiated 10-14 days following the second stage of surgery.

192 Monkeys receiving an amygdala lesion were anesthetized and then placed in a stereotaxic
193 frame. A large bone flap was turned over the appropriate portion of the cranium. The injection
194 sites were calculated based on landmarks that were visible in the MRI scans obtained before
195 surgery. The sagittal sinus served as a landmark for the mediolateral coordinates and the

196 interaural plane (ear bars) served as a landmark for the anteroposterior and dorsoventral
197 coordinates. The monkeys received between 16 and 23 unilateral injections to sites located ~2
198 mm apart in each plane. Each injection consisted of 1.0 μ l of ibotenate (10-15 μ g/ μ l; 0.2 μ l/min;
199 Sigma-Aldrich) administered via a 30-gauge Hamilton syringe held in a David Kopf Instruments
200 manipulator. Before lowering the needle, small slits were made in the dura to allow the needle to
201 pass unobstructed into the brain. The needle remained in place 2-3 min after each injection to
202 limit diffusion of the toxin up the needle track. On closing, 30 ml of mannitol (25%, 1 ml/min,
203 i.v.) was administered to control edema.

204 Monkeys receiving either MFC or OFC lesions were anesthetized and then placed in a
205 custom head holder. At the beginning of surgery, monkeys were given 30 ml of mannitol (25%,
206 1 ml/min, i.v.) to increase access to the orbital and medial surfaces and to control edema. For the
207 MFC lesion, a large, bilaterally symmetrical bone flap was turned over the frontal cortex, and the
208 dura was reflected toward the midline. Sulcal landmarks on the medial surface were identified
209 with the aid of an operating microscope, and the boundaries of the lesion were marked with a
210 line of electrocautery. Then, using a combination of suction and electrocautery, the MFC was
211 removed by subpial aspiration through a fine-gauge metal sucker that was insulated except at the
212 tip. The intended MFC lesion was approximately rectangular in shape and extended
213 rostrocaudally along the length of the rostral sulcus from the genu of the corpus callosum,
214 caudally, to the rostral tip of the cingulate sulcus, rostrally. The dorsal boundary of the lesion
215 was ~2 mm ventral to the cingulate sulcus (at the midlevel of the genu of the corpus callosum),
216 and the ventral boundary of the lesion was the fundus of the rostral sulcus.

217 For the OFC lesion, a large bone flap was turned over the dorsal frontal cortex. The dura
218 was opened with a crescent-shaped cut and then reflected toward the orbit. Sulcal landmarks on

219 the orbital surface were identified with the aid of an operating microscope. Unilateral injections
220 of ibotenate were made into sites located ~2 mm apart. At each site, 1.0 μ l of ibotenate (10-15
221 μ g/ μ l; Sigma-Aldrich) was injected as a bolus via a hand-held Hamilton syringe with a 30-gauge
222 needle. Monkeys received between 87 and 99 injections. The intended OFC lesion extended
223 from the fundus of the lateral orbital sulcus, laterally, to the rostral sulcus on the medial surface
224 of the hemisphere, medially. The rostral boundary of the intended lesion was an imaginary line
225 joining the rostral tips of the medial and lateral orbital sulci. The caudal boundary of the intended
226 lesion was an imaginary line joining the most caudal points of the medial and lateral orbital sulci.

227 **Lesion Assessment**

228 For the OFC and the amygdala excitotoxic lesions, the estimated damage for each
229 monkey was assessed using a T2-weighted MRI scan obtained 4-8 days after surgery. The
230 location and extent of excitotoxic lesions in the hippocampus is reliably indicated by the white
231 hypersignal present on the T2-weighted postoperative scans (Malkova et al., 2001). For the
232 amygdala and surrounding structures, however, the hypersignal may represent an overestimation
233 of damage (Basile et al., 2017). For the MFC aspiration lesions, the estimated damage for each
234 monkey was assessed using a T1-weighted scan obtained postoperatively. Two of the four
235 monkeys with MFC aspiration lesions (Cases #3 and #4) had scans that were acquired
236 approximately three to four months after surgery, whereas the remaining two (Cases #1 and #2)
237 had scans that were acquired five to seven years after the surgery.

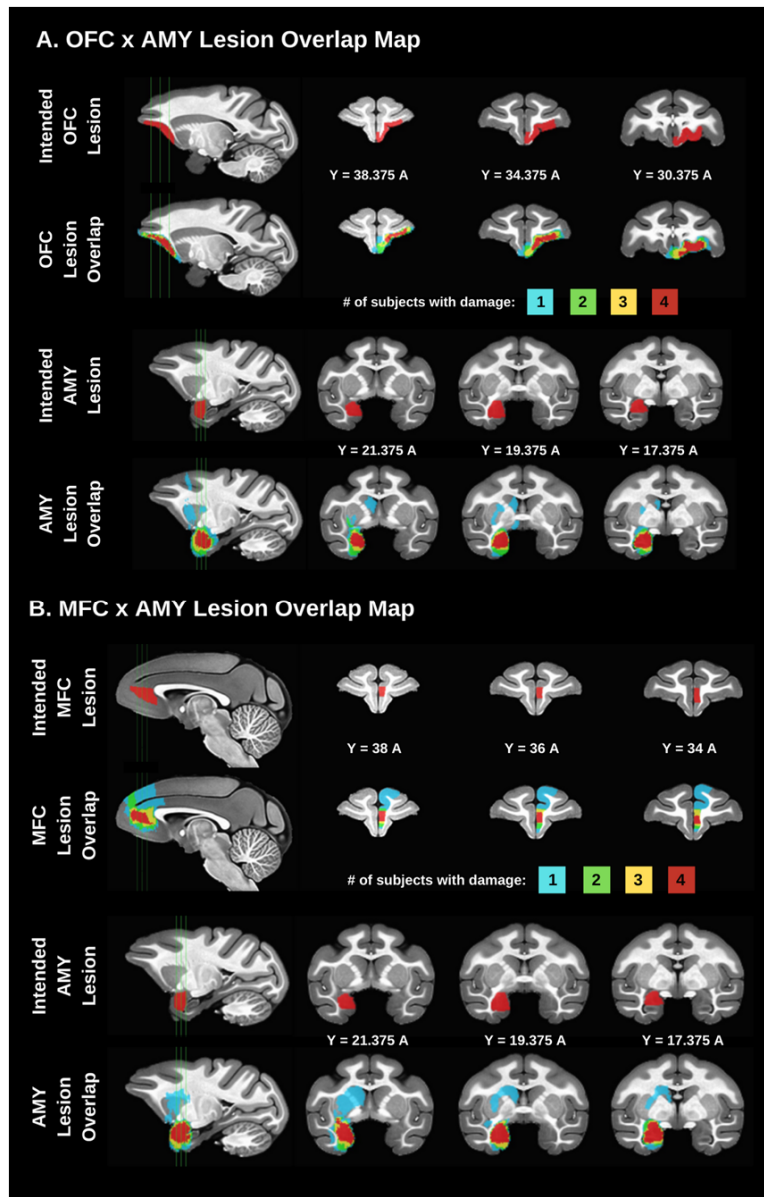
238 We developed a semi-automated lesion mapping procedure to assess the location and
239 extent of the lesions. For all T2-weighted scans, volume estimates were taken by performing
240 rigid (6-parameter rigid body transformation) and affine (diffeomorphic – allowing for 12-
241 parameter local warps in structure) warps on each scan to the NIMH Macaque Template version

242 2.0 (NMT; 0.5 mm³ resolution) (Seidlitz et al., 2018; Jung et al., 2020) using AFNI's 3dAllineate
243 function for the rigid transform (Cox, 1996; Saad et al., 2009) and antsRegistrationSyN in ANTs
244 for the affine transform (Avants et al., 2011). We then applied thresholding to identify the area of
245 hyperintensity on the transformed T2-weighted scans to generate a binary mask that
246 corresponded to the area of damage. These masks were visually inspected and manually edited to
247 ensure that they fully captured the areas of hyperintensity.

248 For the T1 scans showing MFC damage, we used AFNI's @animal_warper (Saad et al.,
249 2009; Jung et al., 2020) to perform a rigid and affine alignment for each subject to the standard
250 NMT version 2.0. For MFC damage, because the aspiration lesion resulted in collapse of nearby
251 tissue into the space created by the lesion, we interpreted the extent of the damage in the
252 transformed T1 scans by comparing the area of damage with the comparable region in the intact
253 contralateral hemisphere, using anatomical and sulcal landmarks of the NMT as references. This
254 method therefore ensured a more accurate estimation of damage than drawing the boundaries of
255 the hypointense areas on the lesioned cortical surface.

256 A lesion overlap map for each region of interest, distinguished by group for the
257 amygdala, was created by summing the binary masks for each hemisphere and displaying the
258 outputs on the NMT version 2.0 (OFC x AMY, **Fig. 1A**; MFC x AMY, **Fig. 1B**). For each
259 subject, the extent of the damage was estimated by taking the percentage overlap of the lesion
260 mask with the intended lesion mask for each region of interest (MFC, OFC, and amygdala) in its
261 respective hemisphere (OFC x AMY, **Table 1**; MFC x AMY, **Table 2**).

262



263

264 **Figure 1.** Lesion overlap maps. **A**, damage sustained by the four subjects in the orbitofrontal
 265 cortex-amygdala (OFC x AMY) crossed lesion group. **B**, damage sustained by the four subjects
 266 in the medial frontal cortex-amygdala (MFC x AMY) crossed lesion group. For visualization
 267 purposes, cortical lesions are displayed on the right hemisphere and amygdala lesions are
 268 displayed on the left hemisphere. The top row in each panel shows four sections of the intended
 269 cortical lesion mask (one sagittal and three coronal views) with corresponding views of the
 270 extent of cortical lesion overlap, and the bottom row in each panel shows four sections of the

271 intended amygdala lesion mask (one sagittal and three coronal views) with corresponding views
 272 of the extent of amygdala lesion overlap. All coordinates for the NMT version 2.0 are displayed
 273 below each section for reference.

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Table 1. Percentage Estimated Damage: OFC x AMY Group

	OFC Lesion Side	% OFC damage	Amygdala Lesion Side	% Amygdala Damage
Case 1	R	67	L	90
Case 2	L	78	R	84
Case 3	R	68	L	94
Case 4	L	91	R	88
Mean		76		89

279 **Table 1.** OFC x AMY cases 1-4. Monkeys with injections of ibotenic acid targeting Walker's
 280 areas 11, 13, and 14 unilaterally and injections of ibotenic acid targeting the amygdala in the
 281 contralateral hemisphere. Mean: average of the estimated damage to each region, computed from
 282 T2-weighted scans for OFC and AMY lesions.

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295 **Table 2. Percentage Estimated Damage: MFC x AMY Group**

	MFC Lesion Side	% MFC damage	Amygdala Lesion Side	% Amygdala Damage
Case 1	L	88	R	97
Case 2	R	89	L	97
Case 3	L	96	R	96
Case 4	R	62	L	97
Mean		84		97

296 **Table 2.** MFC x AMY cases 1-4. Monkeys with aspiration lesions approximately targeting
 297 Walker's area 32 unilaterally and injections of ibotenic acid targeting the amygdala in the
 298 contralateral hemisphere. Mean: average of the estimated damage to each region, computed from
 299 T2-weighted scans for AMY lesions and T1-weighted scans for MFC lesions.

300
301

302 In general, the lesions were as intended. Estimated damage to the amygdala ranged from
 303 84% to 97%. Estimated OFC damage ranged from 67% to 91%. Estimated damage to the MFC
 304 ranged from 62% to 96%. One monkey in the OFC x AMY group (Case #4) and another monkey
 305 in the MFC x AMY group (Case #1) sustained inadvertent damage to the head of the caudate
 306 nucleus and putamen, apparently due to an infarction associated with the amygdala injections. Of
 307 note, the lesion extents reported for the OFC x AMY group in this report differ from the values
 308 reported in Fiuzat et al. (2017) due to a difference in the methodology used to estimate damage.

309

310 **Experiment 1: Social Valuation Task**311 *Apparatus*

312 Briefly, monkeys were trained in a modified Wisconsin General Testing Apparatus
313 (WGTA) located in a darkened room. Monkeys occupied a wheeled transport cage in the animal
314 compartment of the WGTA. A clear Plexiglas box measuring 11.4 cm (width) x 71.1 cm (length)
315 x 11.4 cm (height) with a hinged back was placed in front of the transport cage in the test
316 compartment of the WGTA. This is the same apparatus used in other studies from this laboratory
317 that have examined responses to objects placed inside the Plexiglas box (Pujara et al., 2019). In
318 this study, however, we modified the apparatus to allow for the presentation of videographic
319 materials, as in Rudebeck et al (2006). Behind the Plexiglas box, a monitor was placed facing the
320 front of the transport cage. On each trial, stimuli presented on the screen were 30-second video
321 clips of one of four social contexts: a large monkey staring; a monkey exhibiting affiliative
322 behaviors (lip-smacking); a small monkey with food in its cheek pouches; and a female macaque
323 with prominent perineal swelling. For further comparison, we used either moving or static
324 neutral images (i.e., objects, scenes) and non-neutral (i.e., emotionally-provocative) predator
325 videos of a slithering snake and a moving toy crocodile. A camera (camera #1) mounted on top
326 of the WGTA recorded each monkey's movements throughout the trial from a top-down view to
327 track monkeys' latencies to take food rewards placed on top of the Plexiglas box. Another
328 camera (camera #2) was mounted on top of the monitor and faced the transport cage to record
329 gaze information for subsequent analyses of visual attention to the videos.

330 *Procedure*

331 All monkeys were first required to retrieve food rewards that were located on top of the
332 Plexiglas box while the box was empty for 20 trials. By the end of pretraining, monkeys were
333 familiar with the Plexiglas box and the procedure of reaching for rewards overlaying the box.
334 Stimuli were shown in a fixed presentation across two separate test sessions for each monkey.

335 The first test included presentations of the lipsmacking monkey, the female perinea, and the
336 snake videos among seven neutral stimuli for a total of 10 trials. The second test included
337 presentations of the small monkey, the staring monkey, and the crocodile videos among seven
338 neutral stimuli for a total of 10 trials.

339 On each trial, the opaque moveable screen separating the animal compartment and the
340 test compartment of the WGTA was raised to reveal the video playing on the monitor and a piece
341 of food on the Plexiglas box simultaneously. Therefore, valuation of the content of the video was
342 pitted against the incentive value of the food. Monkeys were given 30 seconds to reach for the
343 piece of food and view the video. After 30 seconds, the screen was lowered to signify the end of
344 a trial. Trials were separated by 30 seconds. Social valuation was operationalized as the
345 difference in the latency to reach for the food reward in the presence of the social videos
346 compared to the neutral stimuli (see **Statistical Analysis** section for the method used to code
347 food-retrieval latencies). Note that use of the term ‘social valuation’ is a shorthand for a
348 collection of phenomena that reflect either learned or innate tendencies to attend to and process
349 social signals. In using the term ‘social valuation’, we include related aspects of social cognition,
350 including the orientation of selective attention to socially relevant visual stimuli, affective
351 reactions and responses to those stimuli, subjective valuations and assessments of those stimuli,
352 and inherent interest in social signals. In this sense, our measure reflects social valuation or
353 social interest.

354 **Experiment 2: Reinforcer Devaluation Task**

355 *Apparatus*

356 As in Experiment 1, all testing was conducted in the WGTA environment and monkeys
357 were tested inside a wheeled transport cage in the animal compartment of the WGTA. The test

358 compartment of the WGTA held a test tray with two food wells spaced 235 mm apart. Test
359 material for reinforcer devaluation consisted of 120 objects that varied in size, shape, color, and
360 texture. Food rewards for the devaluation task consisted of two of the following six foods:
361 M&Ms (Mars Candies, Hackettstown, NJ), half peanuts, raisins, craisins (Ocean Spray,
362 Lakeville-Middleboro, MA), banana-flavored pellets (Noyes, Lancaster, NH) and fruit snacks
363 (Giant Foods, Landover, MD).

364 *Procedure*

365 Procedures for the reinforcer devaluation task have been previously described (Baxter et
366 al., 2000; Rudebeck et al., 2017a). First, each monkey's preference for six different foods was
367 assessed over a 15-day period. Each day, monkeys received 30 trials consisting of pairwise
368 presentations of the six different foods, one each in the left and right wells of the test tray (e.g.,
369 half peanut on the left vs. craisin on the right). The left-right position of the foods was
370 counterbalanced. Preferences were determined by analyzing choices within each of the 15
371 possible pairs of foods over the final five days of testing. Two foods that the monkey valued
372 highly and that were roughly equally palatable as judged by choices in the food preference test
373 were selected for subsequent behavioral shaping and testing.

374 Object discrimination learning was employed to set up unique object-outcome
375 associations, followed by reinforcer devaluation tests, in which probe trials gauged monkeys'
376 abilities to link objects with current food value. For object discrimination, monkeys were trained
377 to discriminate 60 pairs of novel objects. For each pair, one object was randomly designated as
378 the positive object (S+, rewarded) and the other was designated as negative (S-, unrewarded).
379 Half of the positive objects were baited with food 1, and the other half were baited with food 2.
380 For each monkey, the identity of foods 1 and 2 was based on the monkey's previously

381 determined food preferences. On each trial of discrimination training, monkeys were presented
382 with a pair of objects, each covering a food well, and were allowed to displace one of the two
383 objects. If they displaced the S+ object, they were allowed to retrieve the food, which led to
384 termination of the trial. If they displaced the S- object, no food was available and the trial was
385 terminated. The left-right position of the S+ followed a pseudorandom order. Training continued
386 until monkeys attained the criterion of a mean of 90% correct responses over five consecutive
387 days (i.e., 270 correct responses or greater in 300 trials).

388 Monkeys' object choices were then assessed under two conditions for the reinforcer
389 devaluation task: (1) under normal (baseline) conditions, and (2) after one of the foods was
390 devalued via selective satiety. On separate days, four test sessions were conducted, each
391 consisting of 30 trials. Only the positive (S+) objects were used, such that on each trial, a food-1
392 object and a food-2 object were presented together for choice. Each object covered a well baited
393 with the corresponding food. The object pairs were generated randomly for each session, with
394 the constraint that a food-1 object was always paired with a food-2 object. Preceding two of the
395 test sessions, a selective satiation procedure, intended to diminish the value of one of the foods,
396 was conducted. For the other two test sessions, which provided baseline scores, monkeys were
397 not sated on either food before being tested. The order in which the test sessions occurred was
398 the same for all monkeys and was as follows: (1) baseline test 1; (2) food 1 devalued by selective
399 satiation prior to test session; (3) baseline test 2; (4) food 2 devalued by selective satiation prior
400 to test session. A second test of object choice, identical to the first, was conducted between three
401 to four months after the first object choice test. Monkeys were retrained on the same 60 object
402 pairs to the same criterion as before. After relearning, the object choice test was conducted in the
403 same manner as the first test.

404 For the selective satiation procedure, a food hopper was filled with a pre-weighed
405 quantity of either food 1 or food 2 and was attached to the front of the monkey's home cage. The
406 monkey was given a total of 30 minutes to consume as much of the food as it wanted, at which
407 point the experimenter began to observe the monkey's behavior. Additional food was provided if
408 necessary. The selective satiation procedure was deemed to be complete when the monkey
409 refrained from retrieving food from the hopper for 5 minutes. The amount of time taken in the
410 selective satiation procedure and the total amount of food consumed by each monkey was noted.
411 The monkey was then taken to the WGTA within 10 minutes and the test session was conducted.

412 We assessed the effect of selective satiation on monkeys' choices of the foods alone
413 between 30 to 60 days after the second test of object choice. This "food only" test was conducted
414 to evaluate whether satiety transferred from the home cage to the WGTA, and whether
415 behavioral effects of the lesion (if any) were due to an inability to link objects with food value as
416 opposed to an inability to discriminate the foods. This test was identical to both reinforcer
417 devaluation tests 1 and 2, with the important difference that no objects were presented over the
418 two wells where foods were placed. On each trial of the 30-trial sessions, monkeys could see the
419 two foods and were allowed to choose between them. As was the case for object choice tests 1
420 and 2, there were four critical test sessions, in which two were preceded by selective satiation
421 and two were not.

422

423 **Statistical Analysis**

424 *Social Valuation*

425 Because of the small sample sizes of our experimental groups, we used nonparametric
426 tests for all of our within-test analyses. Food-retrieval latencies were derived from analyses of

427 the video recordings from camera #1, which provided a top-down view of the compartment.
428 Latencies were scored to the nearest frame and had a resolution of ~4 ms. Time for the latency
429 measure was initiated when the opaque screen was raised ~15 cm above the test tray. This could
430 be discerned in the videotape by a mark on the cage, visible in the view of camera #2, which
431 provided a frontal view of the monkeys' behavioral responses to the videos presented on the
432 monitor. The response was considered complete when the monkey grasped the food reward just
433 prior to withdrawing its arm. If no response was made within the trial limit of 30 seconds, a score
434 of 30 seconds was recorded. To observe group differences in duration of time spent viewing the
435 videos, we used the front view from camera #2 to measure the length of time the monkeys
436 looked at the monitor screen that was used to display the stimuli ("look-at duration," in seconds)
437 for the full 30 seconds of the trial. All measurements were taken by an observer who was naïve
438 to group assignment.

439 For each monkey, food-retrieval latencies were averaged across both tests for stimuli in
440 the neutral category, nonsocial affective category ("nonsocial: predator"), and social category.
441 We first tested whether social videos elicited longer looking times compared to neutral stimuli in
442 controls, as shown previously (Rudebeck et al., 2006; Noonan et al., 2010a), by running a
443 within-subject signed-rank Wilcoxon test. To test the effects of crossed surgical disconnections
444 of either the MFC or OFC with the amygdala on social valuation, we then ran separate two-tailed
445 Kruskal-Wallis tests for the retrieval latency difference between the social and neutral stimulus
446 categories, followed by *post hoc* Mann-Whitney *U* tests to compare the experimental lesion
447 groups to the intact control group and to each other.

448 As a control, to determine whether the groups differed in the amount of time spent
449 viewing the videos, we ran separate two-tailed Kruskal-Wallis tests for the social and neutral

450 stimulus categories on the stimulus look-at durations, followed by *post hoc* Mann-Whitney *U*
451 tests to compare the experimental lesion groups to each other and to the intact control group.
452 Finally, we compared the two lesion groups and controls on their food-retrieval latencies for the
453 nonsocial predator videos (i.e., snake and alligator) to test whether the lesion groups showed
454 altered responses to this category of stimuli.

455 *Reinforcer Devaluation*

456 Performance on reinforcer devaluation was measured by calculating a proportion shifted
457 score (Murray et al., 2015) for object choice test 1, object choice test 2, and the food choice test.
458 The proportion shifted score is defined as a shift in the number of food-1 and food-2 associated
459 objects (object test) or food 1 and food 2 (food only test) choices after selective satiation relative
460 to baseline choices, combined across probe tests for food 1 and food 2. The proportion shifted
461 scores obtained from object choice test 1 and object choice test 2 were averaged together to
462 obtain a final object test “proportion shifted” score for each subject. A higher proportion shifted
463 score indicates a greater shift away from choices associated with the devalued food.

464 To test the effects of crossed surgical disconnections of either the MFC or OFC with the
465 amygdala on value updating, we ran separate two-tailed Kruskal-Wallis tests for proportion
466 shifted scores obtained from object choices, followed by *post hoc* Mann-Whitney *U* tests to
467 compare the experimental lesion groups to the intact control group and to each other. As a
468 control, to demonstrate that the groups did not differ in their ability to update choices for the
469 foods themselves following selective satiation (i.e., that impairments were specific to updating
470 stimulus-outcome associations), we ran a separate two-tailed Kruskal-Wallis test for proportion
471 shifted scores for food choices.

472 *Double Dissociation*

473 To determine whether there was a double dissociation between the lesion groups, we
474 normalized (z -scored) the food-retrieval latencies from the social valuation task (social condition
475 minus neutral condition) and the average proportion shifted scores from the object choice tests to
476 better approximate normality across tasks. Since there is not an appropriate nonparametric test to
477 compare test performance on two independent tests from two independent samples, we ran a 2x2
478 ANOVA to test for a significant group (OFC x AMY, MFC x AMY) by task (social, nonsocial)
479 interaction, which would indicate a double dissociation between the two groups on task
480 performance.

481

482 **Results**

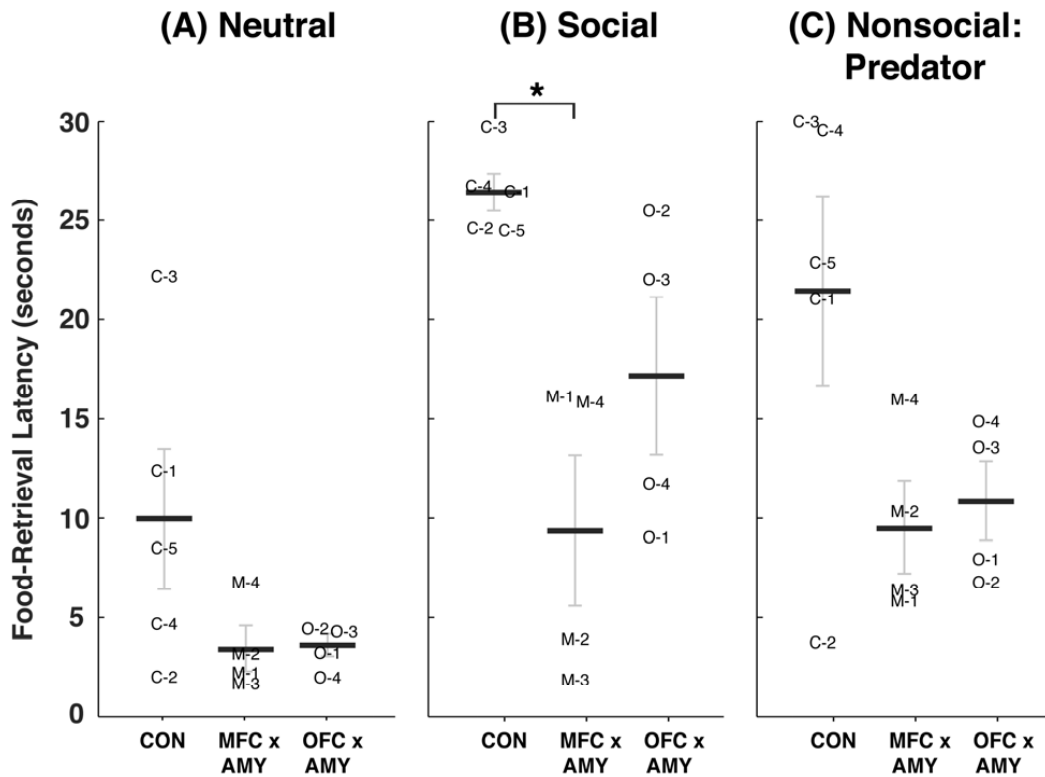
483 **Social valuation**

484 We first evaluated whether social videos attracted the interest of unoperated control
485 monkeys, as shown previously (Rudebeck et al., 2006; Noonan et al., 2010a), indexed by longer
486 food-retrieval latencies in the presence of the social videos compared to neutral stimuli. We
487 found that controls were slower to reach for food rewards when presented with social (**Fig. 2B**)
488 compared to neutral stimuli (Wilcoxon signed-rank paired test, testing whether the median
489 latency in the neutral condition is less than the median latency in the social condition: $V = 0$, $p =$
490 0.03 ; **Fig. 2**). Thus, in line with previous work, social videos slowed food reward retrieval within
491 the unoperated control group.

492 We then ran a Kruskal-Wallis test for latency differences between the social and neutral
493 conditions across groups to test for a main effect of group. We found a nonsignificant effect of
494 group ($\chi^2 = 4.45$, $p = 0.1$, $df = 2$). Given the presence of an outlier in the control condition for
495 the neutral stimulus category (Case #3, latency: 22.2 seconds; one standard deviation above the

496 mean), we reran this analysis without this subject and report a significant effect of group on the
497 social minus neutral contrast ($\chi^2 = 6.04, p = 0.05, df = 2$). Pairwise post-hoc tests between
498 groups revealed a significant difference between the MFC x AMY group and the control group,
499 such that the MFC x AMY group was faster to reach for food rewards than the control subjects in
500 the presence of the social videos compared to the neutral videos ($W = 16, p = 0.03$). The OFC x
501 AMY group did not differ from the control group ($W = 12, p = 0.34$), nor did the lesion groups
502 differ from each other ($W = 13, p = 0.2$).

503 We also ran the analysis separately for the social condition and the neutral condition
504 including the outlier and found a main effect of group for the social condition ($\chi^2 = 7.78, p =$
505 $0.02, df = 2$; **Fig. 2B**) but not the neutral condition ($\chi^2 = 3.22, p = 0.20, df = 2$; **Fig. 2A**).
506 Specifically, we found that the MFC x AMY group was significantly faster to reach for food
507 rewards than the control subjects in the presence of the social videos (unpaired Mann-Whitney U
508 test: $W = 20, p = 0.02$) but not the neutral stimuli (unpaired Mann-Whitney U test: $W = 16, p =$
509 0.19). The OFC x AMY group did not differ from either group in the social condition (unpaired
510 Mann-Whitney U test for OFC x AMY vs. MFC x AMY: $W = 12, p = 0.34$; OFC x AMY vs.
511 CON: $W = 18, p = 0.06$, trending towards significance) or the neutral condition (unpaired Mann-
512 Whitney U test for OFC x AMY vs. MFC x AMY: $W = 10, p = 0.67$; OFC x AMY vs. CON: W
513 $= 16, p = 0.19$).
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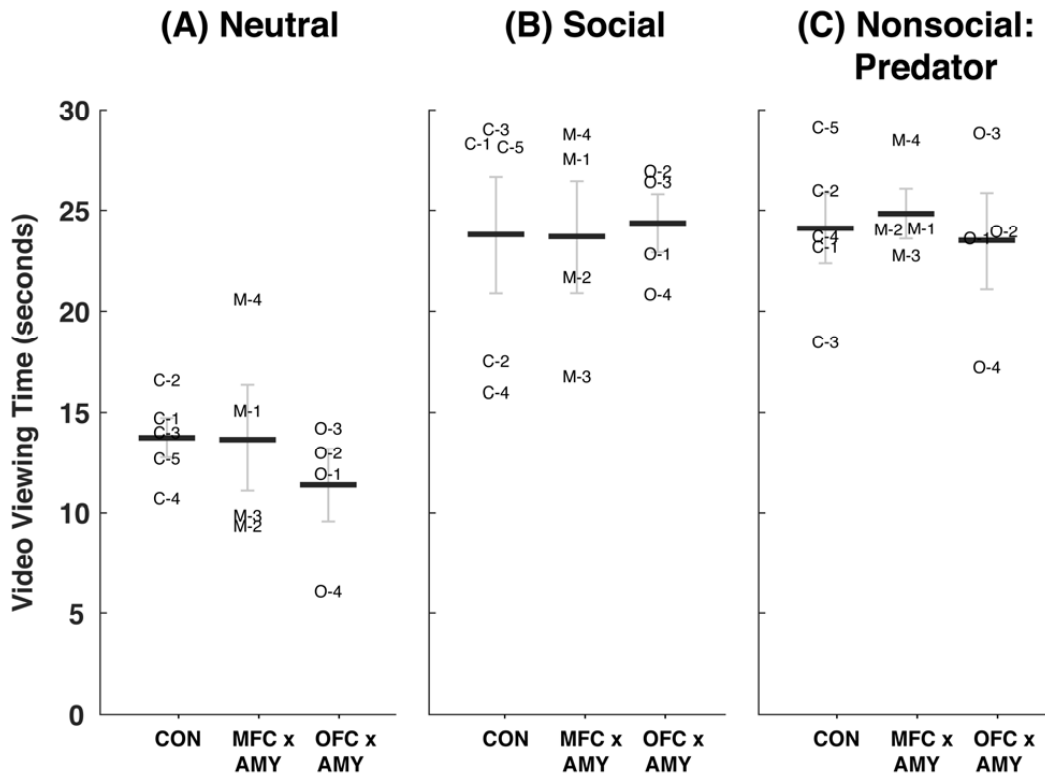


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Figure 2. Social valuation task: food retrieval. A, Mean food-retrieval latencies when monkeys viewed videos in the neutral category. B, Mean food-retrieval latencies when monkeys viewed videos in the social category. C, Mean food-retrieval latencies when monkeys viewed videos in the nonsocial: predator category. Error bars represent the SEM. Individual cases for each group are plotted on the X-axis and food-retrieval latencies (in seconds) are plotted on the Y-axis. * < 0.05. Abbreviations: C-1 to C-5, unoperated controls; M-1 to M-4, monkeys with crossed surgical disconnection of the MFC and amygdala; O-1 to O-4, monkeys with crossed surgical disconnection of the OFC and amygdala.

526 Although these data suggest that a MFC x AMY circuit is necessary for social valuation,
527 to validate this interpretation, we attempted to rule out the possibility that subjects with MFC x
528 AMY lesions were simply ignoring the stimuli, which might indicate a global disruption of
529 visual attention. All groups spent more time viewing the social videos (**Fig. 3B**) compared to the
530 neutral stimuli (**Fig. 3A**), indicated by a significant main effect of stimulus category for viewing

531 durations ($\chi^2 = 14.21, p = 0.0002, df = 1$). Importantly, we found no significant main effect of
 532 group on the duration of time spent looking at the social videos ($\chi^2 = 0.10, p = 0.95, df = 2$),
 533 suggesting intact visual attention across groups.
 534



535
 536 **Figure 3.** Social valuation task: viewing time. A, Mean time spent viewing the videos in the
 537 neutral category. B, Mean time spent viewing videos in the social category. C, Mean time spent
 538 viewing the videos in the nonsocial: predator category. Error bars represent the SEM. Individual
 539 cases for each group are plotted on the X-axis and mean viewing times (in seconds) are plotted
 540 on the Y-axis. Abbreviations: C-1 to C-5, unoperated controls; M-1 to M-4, monkeys with
 541 crossed surgical disconnection of the MFC and amygdala; O-1 to O-4, monkeys with crossed
 542 surgical disconnection of the OFC and amygdala.
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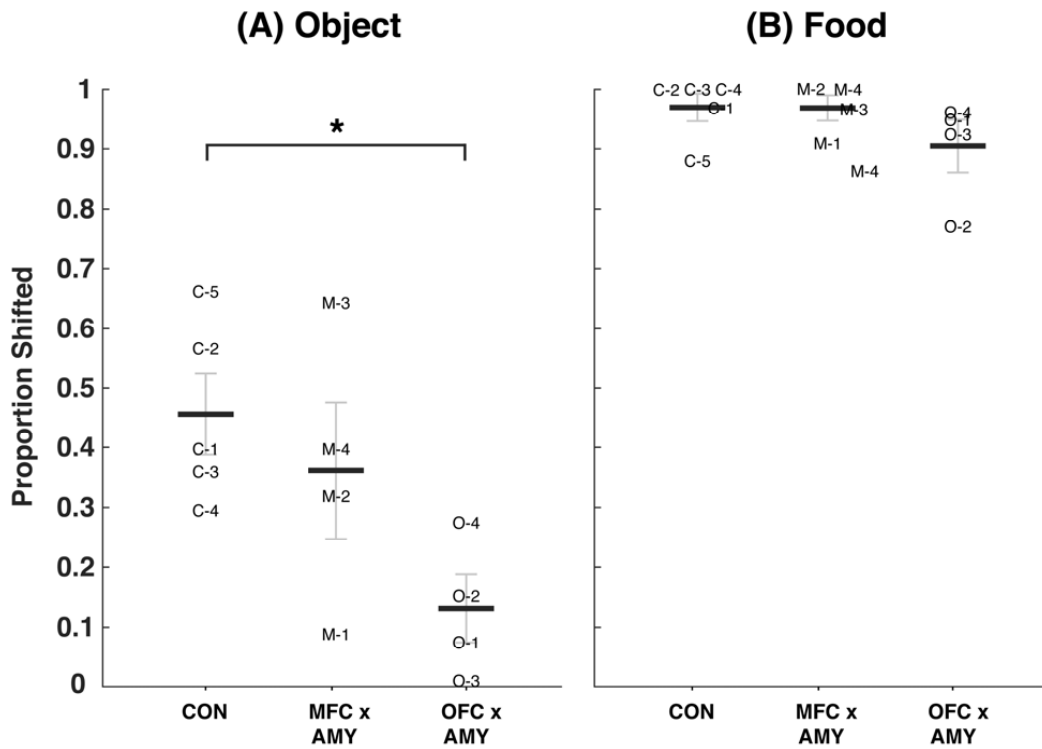
544 Finally, we predicted that both operated groups would show reduced food-retrieval
 545 latencies to emotionally-relevant stimuli given observed reductions in affective reactivity to

546 predator stimuli following either unilateral (Izquierdo and Murray, 2004) or bilateral amygdala
547 damage (Meunier et al., 1999; Izquierdo et al., 2005; Chudasama et al., 2009; Machado et al.,
548 2009; Bliss-Moreau et al., 2011; Medina et al., 2020). Contrary to this prediction, there was no
549 main effect of group for the difference in food-retrieval latencies for the predator videos
550 compared to the neutral videos ($\chi^2 = 0.90, p = 0.64, df = 2$; **Fig. 2**), nor did we observe a
551 significant effect of group for the total video viewing time for the predator videos ($\chi^2 = 0.30; p$
552 $= 0.86, df = 2$), **Fig. 3**). We identified case #2 in the control group as an outlier (latency: 3.77
553 seconds; one standard deviation below the mean). We therefore reran the Kruskal-Wallis
554 analysis without this subject and did not observe a significant main effect of group on the
555 difference in food-retrieval latencies in the presence of the predator videos compared to the
556 neutral videos ($\chi^2 = 0.03, p = 0.22, df = 2$).

557 **Reinforcer Devaluation**

558 We calculated a proportion shifted score for each subject and each test, with a higher
559 proportion shifted score indicating a greater shift away from the object associated with the sated
560 food. We found a significant effect of group on the proportion shifted score for object choices
561 ($\chi^2 = 6.50, p = 0.04, df = 2$; **Fig. 4A**). Whereas the MFC x AMY group did not differ from
562 controls (unpaired Mann-Whitney *U* test: $W = 12.5, p = 0.62$), the OFC x AMY group showed
563 significantly smaller proportion shifted scores for object choices compared to the control group
564 (unpaired Mann-Whitney *U* test: $W = 20, p = 0.02$), but not compared to the MFC x AMY group
565 (unpaired Mann-Whitney *U* test: $W = 2, p = 0.11$). As predicted, groups did not differ with
566 respect to proportion shifted scores when presented with the actual foods for choice following
567 selective satiation ($\chi^2 = 3.66, p = 0.16, df = 2$; **Fig. 4B**). Therefore, all monkeys were able to

568 identify foods by vision and had intact satiety mechanisms. Only monkeys with OFC x AMY
 569 lesions, however, were unable to link objects with the current value of the associated foods.
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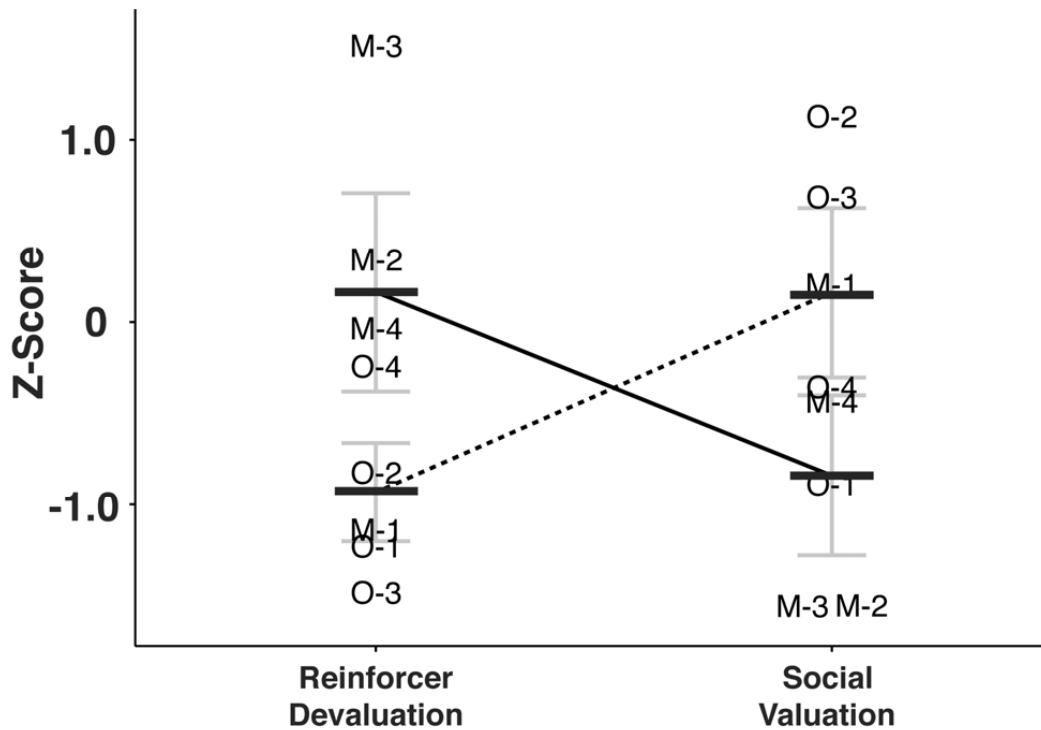
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 572 **Figure 4.** Reinforcer devaluation task. A, Mean proportion shifted scores for object choices. B,
 573 Mean proportion shifted scores for food choices. Individual cases for each group are plotted on
 574 the X-axis and proportion shifted scores are plotted on the Y-axis. Error bars represent the SEM.
 575 * < 0.05. Abbreviations: C-1 to C-5, unoperated controls; M-1 to M-4, monkeys with crossed
 576 surgical disconnection of the MFC and amygdala; O-1 to O-4, monkeys with crossed surgical
 577 disconnection of the OFC and amygdala.
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581 **Double Dissociation of Functional Interactions in Prefrontal-Amygdala Circuits**

582 Experiments 1 and 2, taken together, show that MFC interaction with the amygdala is
 583 necessary for the expression of social value, whereas OFC interaction with the amygdala is

584 essential for updating information about object and/or food value. To demonstrate that these
 585 circuits are dissociable in terms of their designated functions, we directly compared lesion group
 586 performances on both tasks. We normalized the food-retrieval latencies from the social valuation
 587 task (social condition - neutral condition) and the average proportion shifted scores from the
 588 object choice tests. We ran a 2x2 ANOVA and found a significant group by task interaction,
 589 ($F_{1,15} = 5.65, p = 0.03$; **Fig. 5**), indicating that these circuits make selective contributions to
 590 social cognition and value-based decision making.
 591



592
 593 **Figure 5.** Double dissociation between groups on social valuation task performance versus
 594 reinforcer devaluation task performance. The X-axis displays each task and Y-axis displays
 595 normalized z-scores. Data for each group are plotted in a separate line. Error bars represent the
 596 SEM. Abbreviations: M-1 to M-4, monkeys with crossed surgical disconnection of the MFC and
 597 amygdala; O-1 to O-4, monkeys with crossed surgical disconnection of the OFC and amygdala.
 598

599 **Discussion**

600 In support of our hypothesis, we showed that MFC interaction with the amygdala is
601 necessary for the expression of social value, whereas OFC interaction with the amygdala is
602 essential for linking objects with current food value. In a direct comparison of task performances,
603 we found that these prefrontal-amygdala circuits make selective and dissociable contributions to
604 behavior.

605 **Mechanisms of MFC-amygdala interaction during social cognition**

606 A wealth of evidence indicates that the MFC supports social cognition. For example,
607 MFC damage in macaques yields reduced sensitivity to social information (Hadland et al., 2003;
608 Rudebeck et al., 2006), and single unit recordings reveal a population of neurons in the MFC that
609 encodes information about rewards for “other” vs. “self” (Chang et al., 2013). Decades of human
610 neuroimaging work has resulted in the characterization of a so-called “social brain network,” that
611 includes the amygdala, MFC, and superior temporal sulcus/temporo-parietal junction
612 (Blakemore, 2008; Apps et al., 2016; Noonan et al., 2017; Burgos-Robles et al., 2019; Lockwood
613 et al., 2020; Gangopadhyay et al., 2021). Recently, it was found that monkeys with bilateral,
614 excitotoxic MFC lesions, unlike controls, failed to develop prosocial tendencies in a reward
615 allocation learning task involving the selection of visual cues that predicted reward delivery to
616 the self, another monkey, or no one (Basile et al., 2020). In a recent multi-site neural recording
617 study in monkeys using a variant of the same task, oscillatory interactions between the MFC
618 (specifically the ACC, including areas 32, 24b, and 24a) and amygdala were enhanced when
619 monkeys chose to give juice to another monkey, but suppressed when a monkey acted
620 antisocially (Dal Monte et al., 2020). Although our experiment did not require associative
621 learning in a social context, these and our results warrant future studies to examine whether

622 learned cue-outcome associations from socially-derived information are disrupted following
623 transient or chronic interruption of MFC-amygdala activity.

624 One possible interpretation of our findings from the social valuation task is that social
625 information may be modifying the value of the food rewards themselves. We think it is unlikely
626 that the videos with social content literally alter the value of the food. The food on offer is the
627 same food across trials and the monkey's internal state changes little across the 10 trials in the
628 test session. Rather than social information 'modifying food value', we suggest instead that the
629 social valuation task involves two stimuli of value (the video clips and the food items) that
630 compete: for attention, for example. This is consistent with the idea that, when given a choice,
631 monkeys choose to collect more information about conspecifics, and will forego juice reward to
632 do so (Deaner and Platt, 2003; Deaner et al., 2005). Against this idea, all groups showed similar
633 increases in viewing time of social relative to neutral videos. A closely related possibility, not
634 mutually exclusive with the first, is that monkeys with MFC x AMY lesions have altered
635 prioritization of acting on social and food signals. 'Acting on social signals' would bias monkeys
636 to view videos longer now to collect more information about conspecifics, whereas 'acting on
637 food cues' would bias monkeys to approach and retrieve the food. It is possible that it is this
638 prioritization that is altered by the MFC x AMY crossed disconnection, as opposed to the
639 appreciation of the social signals (social valuation or social interest) *per se*. We favor these latter
640 two interpretations because our task is designed to pit social signals against food, just as the
641 original version of this task (Izquierdo and Murray, 2004) pits predator avoidance against
642 approach to food. Indeed, we believe the task is a relatively sensitive assay in both cases
643 precisely because the default action is 'approach food.' Additional evidence from Hadland et al.
644 (2003), in particular, demonstrates that damage of the MFC impacts social behaviors toward

645 conspecifics independent of food value. In that study, which involved no food manipulation,
646 monkeys with MFC damage chose to sit further away from a conspecific compared to control
647 monkeys. Further, given the adaptive food choices made by the MFC x AMY group in the
648 reinforcer devaluation task, we maintain that food value was not significantly altered in the MFC
649 x AMY group in a way that would preclude an interpretation of dissociable performance on the
650 social valuation task. Indeed, the use of food as a way to assess relative value in both tasks
651 represents a strength of the current study – any alterations in food value would be observed as
652 nonspecific impairments in task performance in both tasks regardless of lesion group.

653 Although at least two studies have found no effects of OFC damage on social cognition
654 in macaques (Rudebeck et al., 2006; Noonan et al., 2010b), there is some evidence in support of
655 OFC involvement in social cognition, as well (Watson and Platt, 2012; Goursaud and
656 Bachevalier, 2020). One line of evidence comes from the discovery of face patches in the lateral
657 orbital sulcus of the OFC (Tsao et al., 2008; Troiani et al., 2016). Recording studies suggest that
658 these patches contain face-selective neurons that categorize social information from faces (Barat
659 et al., 2018). In our own data, the OFC x AMY group shows a trend-level difference from
660 controls on their food-retrieval latencies in the presence of the social videos. This raises the
661 possibility that the division of labor between MFC and OFC in social cognition may not be so
662 clear-cut, and that perhaps an intra-PFC network involving subregions of MFC and OFC encodes
663 information that is relevant to social value and learning from social contexts. Another possibility,
664 not mutually exclusive with the first, is that unilateral amygdala damage produces a mild
665 disruption of social evaluation.

666 The amygdala has ubiquitously been implicated in social cognition (Adolphs et al., 1998;
667 Amaral, 2002; Adolphs, 2010). Grabenhorst et al. (2019) reported that a population of neurons in

668 the macaque amygdala simulate a conspecific's decisions prior to their choice during an
669 observational learning task involving juice rewards. An intracranial recording study in humans
670 also presents the possibility that there are two populations of neurons in the amygdala which
671 encode cue-outcome associations from experienced (self) and observed (other) outcomes
672 (Aquino et al., 2020). Another study in macaques found a population of amygdala neurons that
673 code for both juice reward value and conspecific social rank, whereas the OFC and ACC coded
674 for reward values but not hierarchical rank (Munuera et al., 2018). Taken together, and consistent
675 with a role for MFC-amygdala interactions in social cognition, these data suggest that the
676 amygdala may be a site where stimulus-outcome value associations and social information are
677 integrated.

678 **Mechanisms of OFC-amygdala interactions during value updating**

679 Individually, the OFC (Izquierdo et al., 2004; Machado and Bachevalier, 2007; Noonan
680 et al., 2010b; Rudebeck et al., 2013b; Rudebeck et al., 2017a) and the amygdala (Malkova et al.,
681 1997; Izquierdo and Murray, 2007), but not the MFC (Chudasama et al., 2013; Rhodes and
682 Murray, 2013), are necessary for nonsocial, value-based decisions in macaques. The present
683 study confirms the results of an earlier study examining OFC-amygdala disconnection (Baxter et
684 al., 2000) and extends those findings in two ways. First, the present study, unlike the earlier one,
685 used selective, excitotoxic lesions of OFC. Thus, the results confirm an essential role in decision
686 making for amygdala projections to or from neurons in OFC. Second, the present study, unlike
687 the earlier one, did not include a section of the forebrain commissures as part of the surgical
688 disconnection. That the impairments in value updating follow from crossed surgical
689 disconnection with the forebrain commissures intact indicates that the behavior depends on
690 intrahemispheric interactions of the amygdala and OFC. In addition, previous work in macaques

691 demonstrates a critical role for amygdala inputs to OFC but not MFC in sustaining reward value
692 coding for well learned stimulus-reward amounts (Rudebeck et al., 2013a) and in acquiring value
693 coding in terms of both the information signaled and the proportion of neurons encoding
694 stimulus-reward amounts during learning (Rudebeck et al., 2017b).

695 The possible mechanisms by which OFC and amygdala interactions subserve value
696 updating is also starting to be unraveled. In macaques, pharmacological inactivation of posterior
697 OFC (Murray et al., 2015) or the basolateral amygdala (Wellman et al., 2005) during but not
698 after selective satiation impairs adaptive shifts in object choices on the devaluation task.
699 Together, these studies imply that the OFC critically interacts with the amygdala to register
700 changes in food value during the selective satiation procedure, and that this updated information
701 is used to guide subsequent goal-directed choices. A mechanistic account has been proposed
702 wherein the basolateral amygdala is involved in updating stimulus-outcome associations and the
703 OFC maintains representations of past and present associations that are retrieved by the
704 basolateral amygdala in the updating process (Sharpe and Schoenbaum, 2016; Lichtenberg et al.,
705 2017). Thus, communication between the amygdala and the OFC appears to be critical for
706 accurate value representations and cue-outcome associations to allay maladaptive choices.

707 **Limitations and future directions**

708 There are a number of limitations that may be addressed by future work. First, our social
709 valuation task constitutes just one of many approaches for probing social cognition. Because
710 only four discrete stimuli of conspecifics were utilized, we were unable to reveal potentially
711 interesting differences in reactivity among different classes of social stimuli (e.g., submissive vs.
712 dominant, female vs. male). The small number of subjects in each group also precluded our
713 ability to determine whether dominance status of the monkeys changed following the lesions and

714 whether dominance status at the time of testing was a contributing factor in video evaluation.
715 Additionally, our measure of gaze duration for the stimuli was a crude estimation of video
716 fixation duration. A follow-up study employing eye-tracking measures for multiple social
717 stimulus categories would isolate the effects of attention from social valuation by allowing the
718 detection of subtle differences in gaze-fixation patterns between social and nonsocial stimuli
719 among lesion and control groups, if any, as in Deaner et al. (2005). In addition, more direct
720 indices of social behaviors and physiological measures such as pupil diameter and cardiovascular
721 responses might provide a more detailed explanation of the effects of the MFC x AMY lesion on
722 monkeys exposed to stimuli depicting conspecifics.

723 Another limitation in our study is the use of aspiration lesions to target the MFC. We
724 cannot rule out the possibility that the behavioral effects of the MFC lesions were due to
725 unintended damage to fibers of passage. Consistent with a role for MFC in social behavior, a
726 recent study employing bilateral excitotoxic lesions of the MFC in a region that overlaps with
727 that studied here reported a reduction in prosocial preferences in monkeys (Basile et al., 2020).
728 Thus, aspiration lesions (as opposed to excitotoxic lesions) of MFC are not essential to observing
729 effects on social behavior. In addition, the area of the MFC targeted in our study may not have
730 covered the full extent of the medial wall within the boundaries of the ACC thought to be
731 involved in social cognition (Apps et al., 2016). Importantly, however, the MFC cortex lesion in
732 our study included the gyrus of the ACC, which was found to be critical in supporting prosocial
733 behaviors, relative to the sulcus of the ACC, which has not been implicated in these behaviors
734 (Rudebeck et al., 2006; Chang et al., 2013).

735 Lastly, although our subjects were reared in social groups, recent preliminary findings
736 indicate that adult housing conditions can influence affective responding of macaques, with

737 singly-housed monkeys showing reduced reactivity to threatening stimuli compared to socially-
738 housed monkeys (Charbonneau et al., 2021). Thus, the present findings should be considered in
739 that context. Notably, however, if a reduction in affective responding held for macaques in the
740 present study, we would expect that, had monkeys not been housed singly, we may have
741 observed longer food-retrieval latencies in the presence of the social videos for controls, thus
742 making a double dissociation effect more prominent.

743 **Conclusion**

744 In this study, we show that the MFC and amygdala must interact to support the ability to
745 ascribe value to others. Dysfunction in this circuitry may underlie social affiliation deficits – that
746 is, marked reductions in an interest in and/or empathy for others – observed in psychopathy
747 (Viding and McCrory, 2019) and autism spectrum disorder (Thakkar et al., 2008; DeMayo et al.,
748 2019). We further show that the OFC and amygdala form a functional circuit that is essential for
749 sustaining adaptive stimulus choice behaviors following changes in the incentive value of food
750 rewards. Dysregulation in this circuit may underlie disorders in which compulsive and
751 perseverative behaviors are observed, such as substance use disorder (Koob and Volkow, 2016;
752 Bechara et al., 2019) and obsessive-compulsive disorder (Gillan and Robbins, 2014). The
753 framework presented in the current study regarding the separable functions of these cortico-
754 amygdala circuits will require additional testing to determine the anatomical specificity,
755 molecular substrates, and temporal dynamics that give rise to these complex behaviors.

756

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988

989 **Figure and Table Legends**

990

991 **Figure 1.** Lesion overlap maps. **A**, Damage sustained by the four subjects in the orbitofrontal
992 cortex-amygdala (OFC x AMY) crossed lesion group. **B**, Damage sustained by the four subjects
993 in the medial frontal cortex-amygdala (MFC x AMY) crossed lesion group. For visualization
994 purposes, cortical lesions are displayed on the right hemisphere and amygdala lesions are
995 displayed on the left hemisphere. The top row in each panel shows four sections of the intended
996 cortical lesion mask (one sagittal and three coronal views) with corresponding views of the
997 extent of cortical lesion overlap, and the bottom row in each panel shows four sections of the
998 intended amygdala lesion mask (one sagittal and three coronal views) with corresponding views
999 of the extent of amygdala lesion overlap. All coordinates for the NMT version 2.0 are displayed
1000 below each section for reference.

1001

1002 **Figure 2. Figure 2.** Social valuation task: food retrieval. **A**, Mean food-retrieval latencies when
1003 monkeys viewed videos in the neutral category. **B**, Mean food-retrieval latencies when monkeys
1004 viewed videos in the social category. **C**, Mean food-retrieval latencies when monkeys viewed
1005 videos in the nonsocial: predator category. Error bars represent the SEM. Individual cases for
1006 each group are plotted on the X-axis and food-retrieval latencies (in seconds) are plotted on the
1007 Y-axis. * < 0.05. Abbreviations: C-1 to C-5, unoperated controls; M-1 to M-4, monkeys with
1008 crossed surgical disconnection of the MFC and amygdala; O-1 to O-4, monkeys with crossed
1009 surgical disconnection of the OFC and amygdala.

1010

1011

1012 **Figure 3.** Social valuation task: viewing time. **A**, Mean time spent viewing the videos in the
1013 neutral category. **B**, Mean time spent viewing videos in the social category. **C**, Mean time spent
1014 viewing the videos in the nonsocial: predator category. Error bars represent the SEM. Individual
1015 cases for each group are plotted on the X-axis and mean viewing times (in seconds) are plotted
1016 on the Y-axis. Abbreviations: C-1 to C-5, unoperated controls; M-1 to M-4, monkeys with
1017 crossed surgical disconnection of the MFC and amygdala; O-1 to O-4, monkeys with crossed
1018 surgical disconnection of the OFC and amygdala.

1019

1020 **Figure 4.** Reinforcer devaluation task. **A**, Mean proportion shifted scores for object choices. **B**,
1021 Mean proportion shifted scores for food choices. Individual cases for each group are plotted on
1022 the X-axis and proportion shifted scores are plotted on the Y-axis. Error bars represent the SEM.
1023 * < 0.05. Abbreviations: C-1 to C-5, unoperated controls; M-1 to M-4, monkeys with crossed
1024 surgical disconnection of the MFC and amygdala; O-1 to O-4, monkeys with crossed surgical
1025 disconnection of the OFC and amygdala.

1026

1027 **Figure 5.** Double dissociation between groups on social valuation task performance versus
1028 reinforcer devaluation task performance. The X-axis displays each task and Y-axis displays
1029 normalized z-scores. Data for each group are plotted in a separate line. Error bars represent the
1030 SEM. Abbreviations: M-1 to M-4, monkeys with crossed surgical disconnection of the MFC and
1031 amygdala; O-1 to O-4, monkeys with crossed surgical disconnection of the OFC and amygdala.

1032

1033 **Table 1.** OFC x AMY cases 1-4. Monkeys with injections of ibotenic acid targeting Walker's
1034 areas 11, 13, and 14 unilaterally and injections of ibotenic acid targeting the amygdala in the

1035 contralateral hemisphere. Mean: average of the estimated damage to each region, computed from

1036 T2-weighted scans for OFC and AMY lesions.

1037

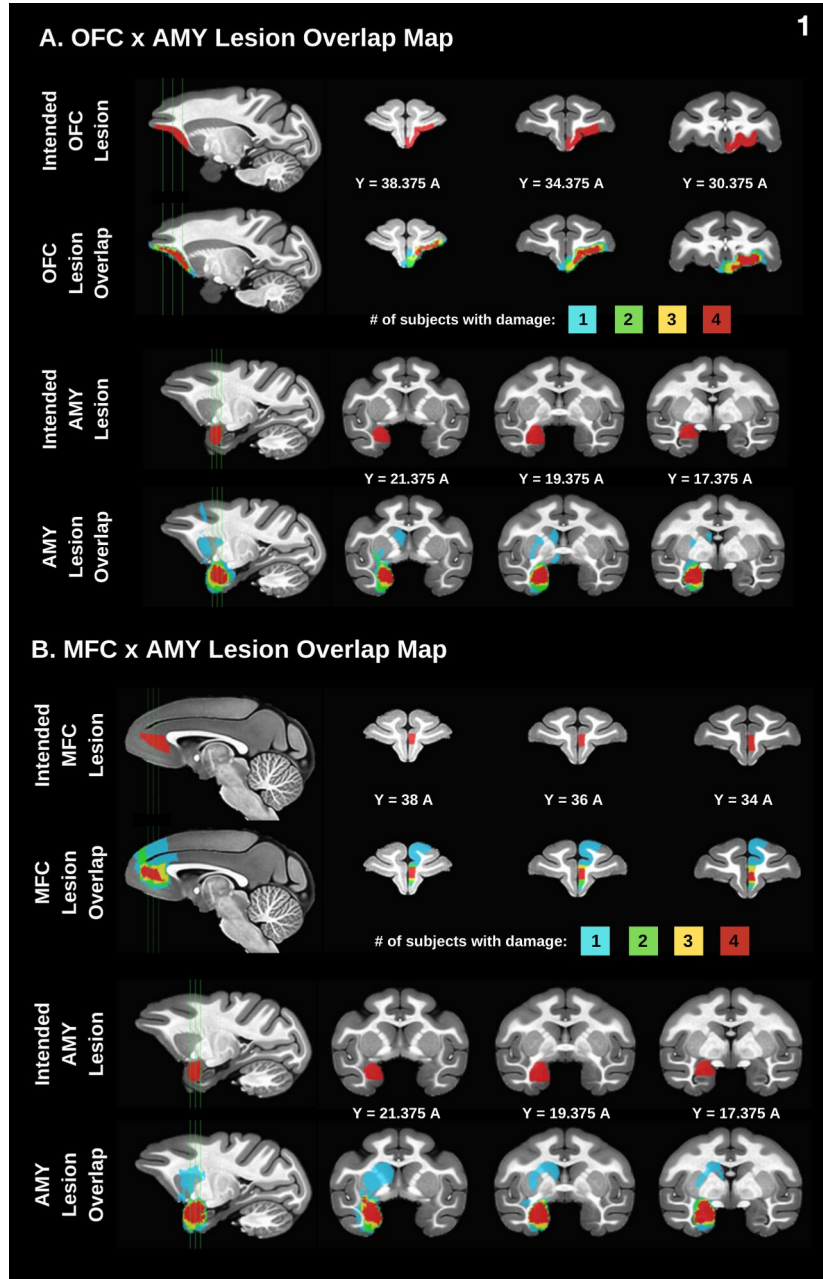
1038 **Table 2.** MFC x AMY cases 1-4. Monkeys with aspiration lesions approximately targeting

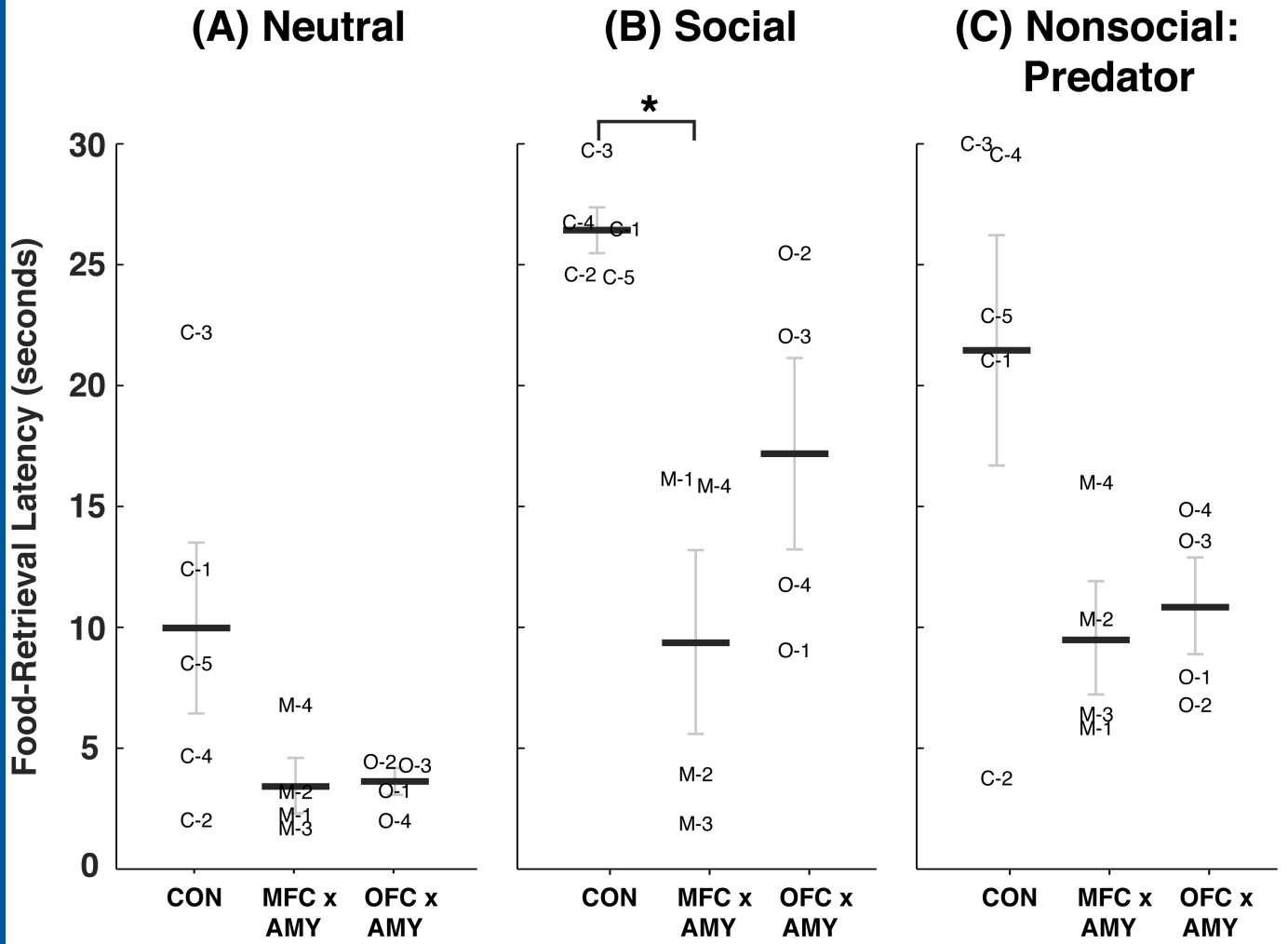
1039 Walker's area 32 unilaterally and injections of ibotenic acid targeting the amygdala in the

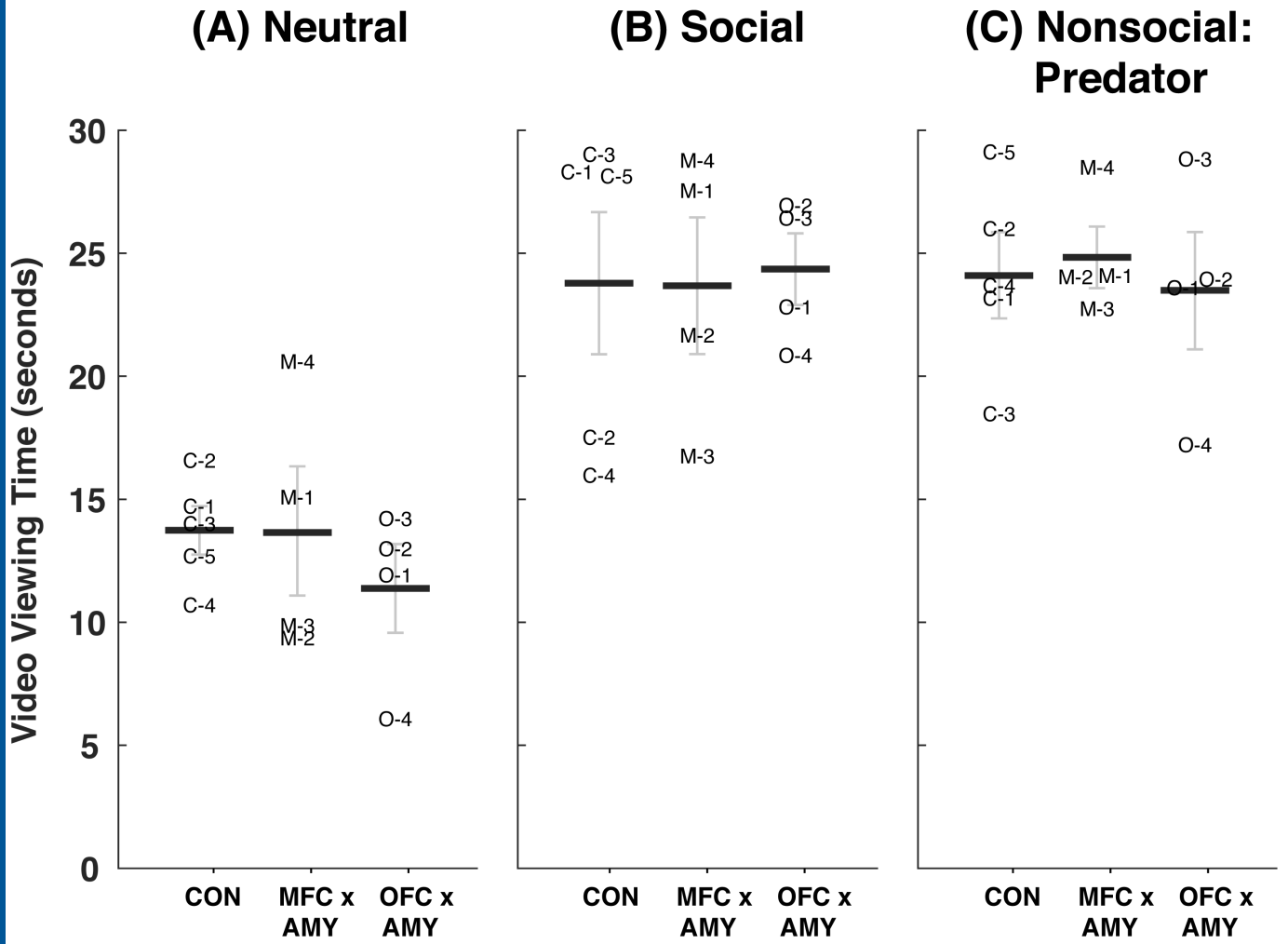
1040 contralateral hemisphere. Mean: average of the estimated damage to each region, computed from

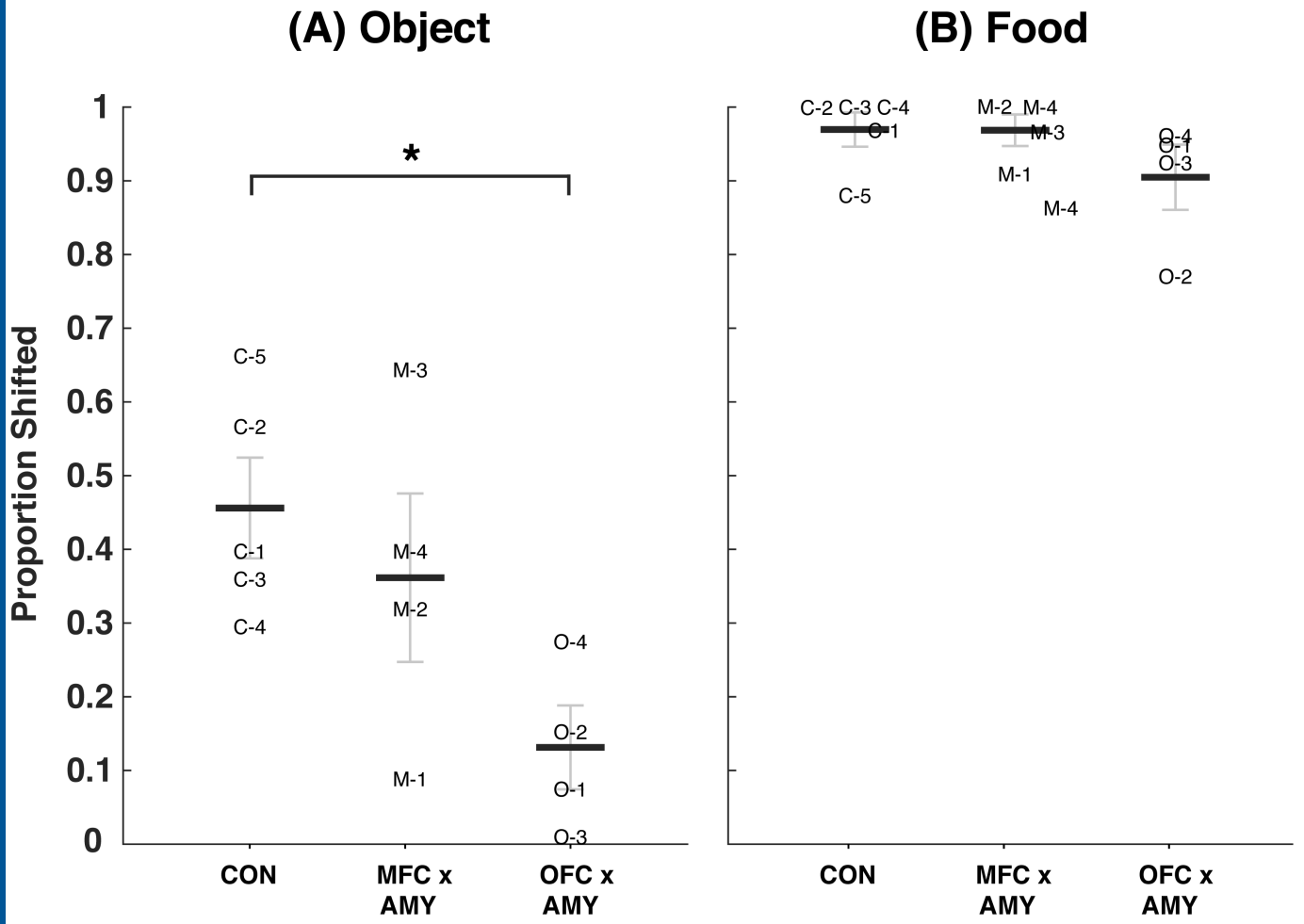
1041 T2-weighted scans for AMY lesions and T1-weighted scans for MFC lesions.

1042









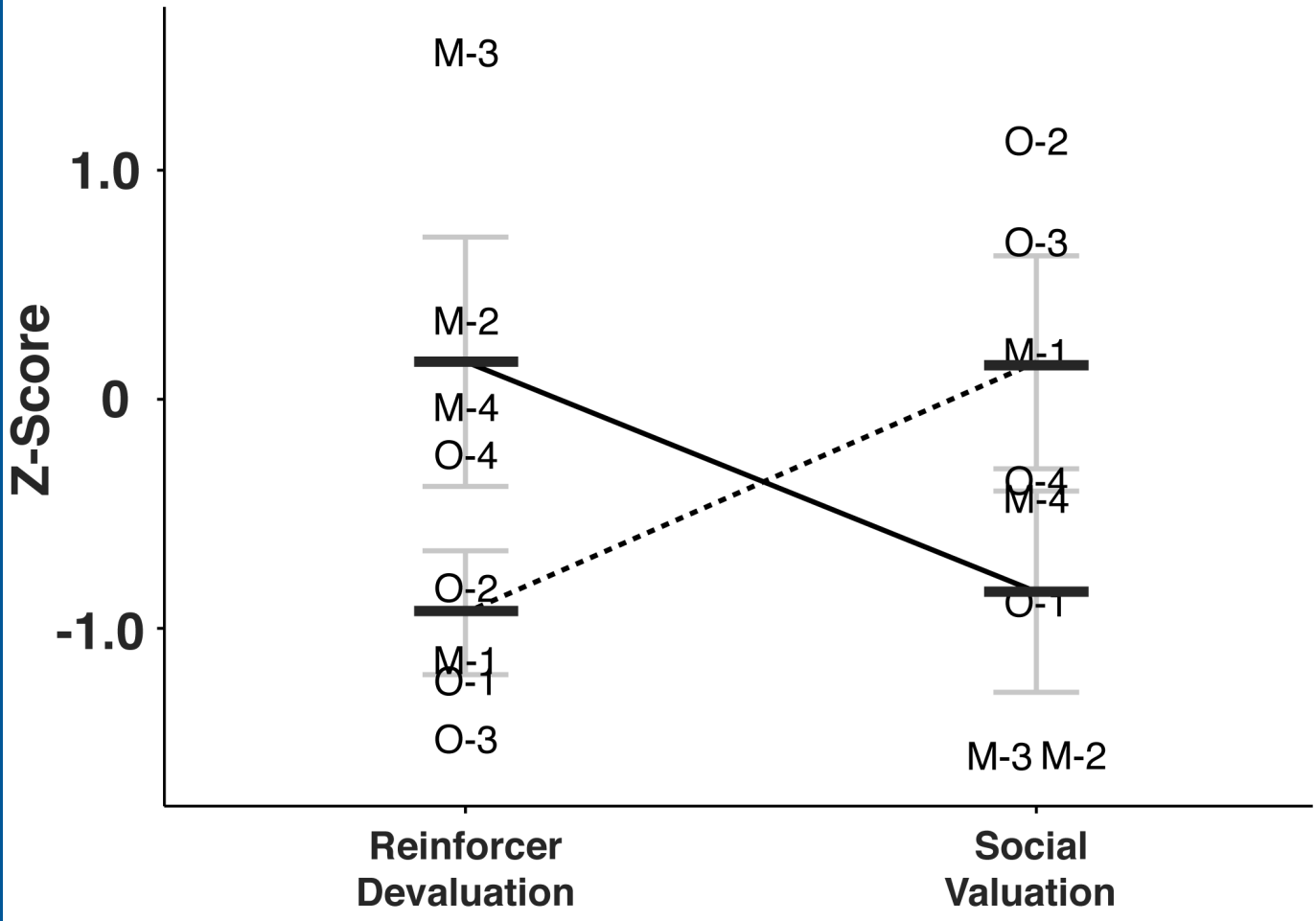


Table 1. Percentage Estimated Damage: OFC x AMY Group

	OFC Lesion Side	% OFC damage	Amygdala Lesion Side	% Amygdala Damage
Case 1	R	67	L	90
Case 2	L	78	R	84
Case 3	R	68	L	94
Case 4	L	91	R	88
Mean		76		89

Table 2. Percentage Estimated Damage: MFC x AMY Group

	MFC Lesion Side	% MFC damage	Amygdala Lesion Side	% Amygdala Damage
Case 1	L	88	R	97
Case 2	R	89	L	97
Case 3	L	96	R	96
Case 4	R	62	L	97
Mean		84		97