Natalia Bielczyk, MSc
Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behavior
Nijmegen, the Netherlands

The landscape after the Brainhack - on the results and impressions after the first AoN Brainhack Warsaw

The Open Science movement has never been in a better shape. Open databases have changed research, and the increasingly popular Hackathon events brought researchers together - so that they can team up and produce new research through brainstorming and an open discussion panels. The term 'researcher' is slowly changing its meaning; these days, research is no longer a term closed to academia, but rather, an experience available to anyone who has a heart for asking questions and trying to find the answers in a scientific way.

In the first part of this presentation, I will summarize fresh impressions after the incoming AoN Brainhack Warsaw event (17th-19th November, https://brainhackwarsaw.github.io/), and its results. In this event, over 80 participants from all around Europe challenge themselves with 9 diverse projects inspired by neuroscience. This is the first Brainhack event in Warsaw, supported by ICM, brainhack.org and IBRO. We can then open a discussion upon whether a group of people can produce a high quality research content in as little as two days, and what is the future of Hackathons.

In the second part of the presentation, I will also refer to my daily research, which is focused on the topic of causality in functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI). fMRI datasets pose certain limitations on the causal inference and therefore, they are often envisaged as non-causal datasets. In this talk, I will discuss this research question, and introduce my findings and solutions for causal inference in fMRI obtained during the PhD program in the Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behavior in Nijmegen, the Netherlands.