Cognitive Science SPEAKER SERIES '17-18

Quaecumque sunt vera
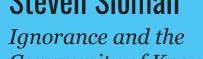## Whatsoever things are true

TUE 11/14
Dan Kahan
Science comprehension without curiosity is no virtue, and curiosity without comprehension no vice
I will review ongoing work on how science comprehension and science curiosity relate to public conflict over science-informed policymaking.

TUE 4/10
Steven Sloman
Ignorance and the Community of Knowledge
We overestimate our own understanding, from common objects to political policies (e.g., the Affordable Care Act). Within a community of knowledge, we fail to distinguish what we know from the knowledge in other people's heads.

TUE 4/24
Linda Skitka
The social and political implications of moral conviction
Some of our attitudes seem more personally important or certain than others. When are attitudes simply strong, versus being moral convictions? I'll focus on political thoughts, feelings, and behavior.

DIALOGUE

DAY TBA
The cognitive science of participatory democracy
DATE + LOCATION TBA
The biases of human reasoning have combined in dangerous ways with the ease of finding echo chambers on the internet. Join us for a special dialogue exploring how cognitive science can influence the design of systems for online reasoning and deliberation, to create a more rational collective intelligence.

TUE 10/24
Dan Jurafsky
Automatically Extracting Social Meaning from Language
Our lab computationally extracts social meaning from language: racial interactions from police body-camera footage, interdisciplinary networks through science papers, and socioeconomic variables through restaurant reviews.

TUE 11/28
Elisabeth Camp
Assessing Frames for Epistemic Aptness
In politics, art, & science, 'framing devices' like metaphor and apocryphal facts express intuitive patterns of thought. I argue that, while they can mislead and manipulate, they can also support epistemically robust access to the world.

TUE 12/5
Hayley Vlach
Learning to forget, and forgetting to learn, in cognitive development
Children learn a surprisingly large amount of new information despite limitations to attention and memory. Rapid forgetting actually provides a form of abstraction, promoting generalized knowledge across contexts.

TUE 1/9
Robert Slevc
Relationships between language and music: from sound to syntax
Linguistic and musical processing seem similar in some ways, but are differentially affected by brain damage. I will explore this mystery, highlighting domain-general category learning and cognitive control.

TUE 1/16
Percival Matthews
Perceptual foundations for understanding numerical magnitudes
I will argue that more explicit attention to nonsymbolic ratio perception can account for the deep connections between whole numbers and other classes of number. *Co-sponsored by the Department of Psychology*

THU 2/8
Ayanna Thomas
Improving Metamemory to Enhance Evaluative Thinking
Studies on metacognition often reveal deficiencies in what people think they remember and understand. However, in a variety of conditions and with different populations, metamemory monitoring can optimize thinking. *Co-sponsored by the Department of Psychology*

TUE 2/27
Laura Hiatt
Cognitive Priming in Human and Autonomous Systems
Attended items prime related items in memory, guiding thoughts to the relevant and meaningful. Our models show how priming explains human similarity judgments or feature inference, but can likewise help autonomous systems make sense of the world.

TUE 4/17
Nazbanou Nozari
Monitoring and control in language production
In order to fully understand the functioning of the language production system and its disorders, one must understand how production processes are monitored and, when necessary, regulated by cognitive control.

TUE 5/1
James Pennebaker
Analyzing language to understand social and psychological processes
Our everyday words reveal the ways we think, feel, and connect with others, helping us understand the psychology of individuals and cultures, past and present.

T Tutorial
TUTORIAL: A text analysis workshop
4/30 & 5/1
This hands-on workshop will describe the logic of computer-based text analytic methods, with special emphasis on word counting approaches. Please see the Northwestern Cognitive Science website for details.

TUE 5/29
Michael Frank
Bigger data about smaller people: Studying children's language learning at scale
I will present an emerging synthesis of how children acquire language, by integrating large datasets of what they hear and say, highlighting both a slow accumulation of knowledge in rich social contexts and surprisingly fast grammatical abstractions.

All events are in Swift Hall 107 @ 4pm, unless otherwise noted.

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