

The University of Hong Kong
Department of Psychology

Departmental Seminar

***Connections, Cooperation, and Emotions:
Big Data Insights into Classic Psychological Questions***

Date: April 14, 2014 (Monday)
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Venue: Room 8.13, 8/F The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus,
HKU
Speaker: Dr. Alex Kogan
University of Cambridge

The emergence of mass digital communications has offered new ability for researchers to investigate classic psychological questions that have previously been only studied using self-report methods in small samples. In the present talk, I will discuss new findings from my lab both at the micro (individual) and macro (nation) levels about connections, cooperation, and emotions. Micro data consists of experiments and correlational studies conducted in CPW lab. Macro data consists of every friendship made on Facebook worldwide between 2006 and 2012 (170+ billion friendships), emoticon usage over a period of 4 weeks in every country in the world, and economic, health, and well-being data from the World Bank, WHO, and other sources. The talk will touch on how connections, cooperation, and emotions are related to mental and physical well-being, the role of culture in setting the stage for these processes, and socio-economic status. The talk will conclude with a discussion of the pragmatics of doing big data research.