

The University of Hong Kong  
Department of Psychology

*Departmental Seminar*

***Conscious Perception and a Heuristic  
Model of Sensory Metacognition***

Date: October 20, 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. Lau Hakwan  
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Our conscious perception is surprising in certain ways, e.g. we "feel" we see color and details in the periphery, although our ability to actually identify things there is limited. Turns out, the ways we introspectively estimate confidence in perceptual decisions are also idiosyncratic in similar ways. So, understanding these metacognitive mechanisms may help us to understand consciousness. I present a few studies using psychophysical modeling of behavior, transcranial magnetic stimulation, and intracranial recording of electrophysiological responses in humans, to support a model of sensory metacognition. According to this model, we do not generate confidence optimally as computational principles would predict. Instead, we use various heuristics to approximate confidence based on the detectability of the stimulus, sometimes even after the decision is already made.