

The University of Hong Kong
Department of Psychology

Departmental Seminar

Plasticity of the Visual System following Macular Lesions

Date: January 6, 2015 (Tuesday)
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Venue: Room 813, 8/F, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU
Speaker: Professor Susana T.L. Chung
School of Optometry & Graduate Program in Vision Science
University of California, Berkeley

Following the onset of macular disorders that lead to central vision loss, patients often adopt a retinal region outside the macular lesion as their “new fovea”, or, the *preferred retinal locus* (PRL). The development of the PRL in itself is evidence that the visual system retains certain degree of plasticity and is capable of adapting to the vision loss even late in life. In this talk, I will present empirical results that show how eye-movement behavior and certain spatial properties adapt to the central vision loss, as evidence of plasticity of the visual system following central vision loss late in life. An important clinical implication of the plasticity of the visual system is that it may be feasible to improve visual functions of patients with central vision loss through perceptual learning.