

The University of Hong Kong
Department of Psychology

Departmental Seminar

***A Prefrontal Theory of Conscious Perception and Its
Application for Treatments of Anxiety Disorders***

Date: October 13, 2015 (Tuesday)

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Venue: Room 813, 8/F, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

Speaker: Prof. Hakwan Lau
Psychology Department
UCLA

Abstract

I critically review several dominant theories of conscious awareness, and present findings in support of a view according to which conscious perception occurs when a metacognitive mechanism in the frontal and parietal cortices evaluates a perceptual signal as reliable. One prediction of this view is that it may be possible to induce fear extinction unconsciously. Using multivoxel neurofeedback w/ fMRI, we demonstrate how this may lead to novel & double-blinded treatments for phobia and post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD).