Departmental Seminar

Finding the Place of Experimental Psychology in a Broader Context of Inquiry

11:30a.m. – 12:30p.m.  |  December 14, 2017 (Thursday)
Rm 813, 8/F, The Jockey Club Tower  |  Centennial Campus  |  The University of Hong Kong

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Abstract
What is the role of Experimental Psychology in our self-understanding? Experimentation is an extremely generative method for collecting new facts, but it seems to quickly lose its grasp on the reality with which we are most familiar. My aim in this talk is to shed light on some of the underlying assumptions and strategies that make Experimental Psychology possible, in order to clarify its strengths as well as its limitations. I will (1) begin with a general discussion of human behavior, (2) describe experimental participation as belonging to a special class of human behavior, namely the class of rule-following behavior, (3) describe the so-called analytic style that is common in the way in which experimenters make progress in their work, and finally (4) end with a discussion of human agency as expressed through behaviors such as improvisation and exploration. Together, the four steps aim to clarify the ways in which experimentation constitutes a source of meaningful contribution within a larger context of human activities and human inquiries.

About the speaker
Davood Gozli is Assistant Professor of Psychology at University of Macau. He obtained his PhD in Experimental Psychology at University of Toronto (2015). He has been a visiting researcher at University of Vienna (2014) and Leiden University (2015-2016). Davood's experimental work is concerned with biases in perception and action, and what these biases reveal about human cognition. His work also examines the conceptual underpinnings of Experimental Psychology.

~All are Welcome~