



Department of Psychology
The University of Hong Kong

香港大學心理學系

Brown Bag Lunchtime Seminar (Via Zoom) **(Theme: Cognition and Neuroscience)**

Are past and future selves perceived differently from the present self? Replication and extension of Pronin and Ross (2006) temporal differences in trait self-ascription

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. | September 24, 2021 (Friday)



Nadia ADELINA

Ph.D. student

Department of Psychology

The University of Hong Kong

Abstract

Whereas we have access to our internal thoughts and feelings, we can only make assessments about other people based on their observable behaviors. As a result, we often see ourselves differently from how we see others. One example of this is the actor-observer asymmetry in attribution, which states that people are more likely to make dispositional attributions when assessing others, but make situational inferences when assessing themselves.

However, does the same apply to judgements we make about our distant future or past selves? To examine this, we attempted a pre-registered replication and extension of Studies 1, 2, and 3 from Pronin and Ross (2006), who postulated that the actor-observer asymmetry not only applies to the judgements we make of others, but also the judgements we make of our temporally distant selves. By asking participants to make a series of trait assessments about either themselves or their friend (social distance) across various temporal distances (past vs present vs future), we were able to examine whether the trait assessments we make about our temporally distant selves more closely resemble those we make of other people's than those we typically make about ourselves.

The findings of our replication were inconclusive. For the effect of social distance, we found that, although smaller in the magnitude of the effect, participants were more likely to ascribe dispositional traits, as opposed to situational ascriptions, when making assessments about their friends compared to themselves. However, we were unable to replicate the central hypothesis regarding the effect of temporal distance. These mixed findings suggest the importance of replications to obtain more precise estimates regarding the effect of this phenomenon.

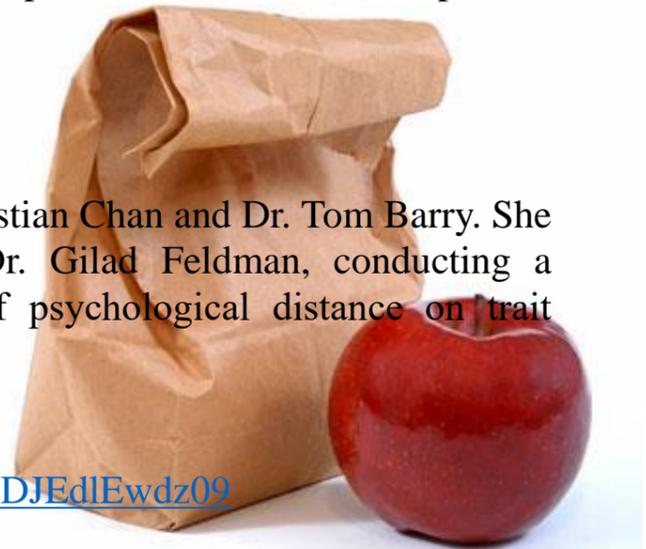
About the speaker

Nadia is a first year PhD candidate under the supervision of Dr. Christian Chan and Dr. Tom Barry. She completed her undergraduate thesis under the supervision of Dr. Gilad Feldman, conducting a replication of Pronin and Ross' (2006) studies on the effect of psychological distance on trait assessments.

Zoom

<https://hku.zoom.us/j/3951550048?pwd=SncvL3RYakEycUtpL29vdDJEEdlEwdz09>

Meeting ID: 395 155 0048 | Password: psyc



~All are Welcome~

Enquiry: rpsyc@hku.hk