

## Departmental Seminar

# Clinical Applications of the Neuroscience of Unconsciousness

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | May 24, 2018 (Thursday)

Rm 813, 8/F, The Jockey Club Tower | Centennial Campus | The University of Hong Kong



### Dr. Hakwan Lau, D. Phil

Associate Professor  
Department of Psychology  
University of Hong Kong

#### Abstract

If brains are physical computational machines, why do we feel anything at all? Can robots subjectively experience pain, the smell of roses, the taste of wine, etc, just like we do? These questions are traditionally considered to be philosophically challenging, but somewhat too esoteric to be 'useful'. I provide examples here as to how the modern neuroscience of consciousness can lead to clinical applications, such as using neuroimaging (fMRI) coupled with artificial intelligence (AI) to treat phobia. For example we can now make people less afraid of cockroaches / snakes, by applying psychotherapy directly and unconsciously in their brains, based on the decoded information from their brain scans. Because the effectiveness of these treatments can be demonstrated in double-blind placebo-controlled clinical trials, there is an exciting opportunity for psychology to become more integrated into medicine as traditionally conceived.

~All are Welcome~