

Departmental Seminar

Dissecting Mentalizing in Social Interaction: Measures, Tests and Computational Models

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | March 13, 2019 (Wednesday)

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



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Abstract

To account for the multiple sub-processes that are involved in social inference during social interaction, here, I propose that during social interaction, three core mentalization components are weaved to create a coherent social discourse. Using evidence and theory from the fields of clinical, social and computational neuroscience, we also propose a hierarchical brain model corresponding to these interactive components, including the meta-network, the ToM network and the meta-mentalization network. By computational modeling of ToM (ToM: mentalization of other's mental states from the perspective of the self), we dissect the social brain and propose that the dynamic and fleeting interaction and integration of prior knowledge of oneself and other's beliefs in the social brain.

About the speaker

Dr. Haiyan Wu received her PhD in neuroscience and psychology at the IDG / McGovern Institute for Brain Research at Beijing Normal University (2013). She is an associate professor (2017-now) at University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, and a visiting professor at California Institute of Technology (2017-now). Her main research interests are the neural mechanisms and computational frameworks that describe and/or affect behavioral and neuronal responses of empathy, decision making (including moral and immoral behaviors) under social interactions. She uses the cutting-edge tools (Mturk, psychophysiological, mouse tracking and fMRI) and the state-of-art experiment paradigms to investigate the following questions:

- how people make positive and negative empathetic responses to others
- the profile of social decision making and strategic interactions in different individuals
- the role of oxytocin and vasopressin in manipulating social emotion and decision making
- interactions between reward and punishment system in moral decision.

~All are Welcome~

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