



Departmental Seminar

Pre-crastination



Prof. David A. Rosenbaum
Distinguished Professor
University of California, Riverside

11:00a.m. – 12:00n.n.

Room 715, 7/F
The Jockey Club Tower
Centennial Campus
The University of Hong Kong

Abstract

Pre-crastination is the tendency to expend extra effort to get things done as soon as possible. To a first approximation, pre-crastination is the opposite of procrastination. Pre-crastination was discovered serendipitously in research on human motor control by the speaker and his students as part of a larger investigation of cognition and action. When asked to carry out the easier of two physical tasks, most participants (college students) chose the task that was more physically demanding, provided it allowed quicker completion of the task subgoal. This surprising tendency has been replicated in many labs around the world and with a broad range of tasks. From the moment pre-crastination was discovered in 2014 it has received a great deal of media attention. The reason is that pre-crastination occurs commonly in everyday life. People answer emails too quickly, submit papers or grant proposals well before they are due, get needless surgeries before getting second opinions, convict people too soon, or go to war before peace could be pursued. The discovery of pre-crastination has also led to a new investigation of gathering information for upcoming decision-making (as in reading) and has led to the formulation of a new model for reading and other activities where preview is important.

About the Speaker

David A. Rosenbaum is a cognitive psychologist. He got his PhD from Stanford University in 1977 and then worked at Bell Labs, Hampshire College, the University of Massachusetts, and Penn State. He has been a Distinguished Professor at the University of California, Riverside since 2016.

Zoom Meeting (For participants who couldn't attend the Seminar in person)

<https://hku.zoom.us/j/95948324087?pwd=z7y5cywM349YyPkfQbAG8VQo2W2oz4.1>

Meeting ID: 959 4832 4087 | Password: 851227

~ All are Welcome ~

Enquiry: fancao@hku.hk

