

Space, Time, and Fear

Speaker: Prof. Dean Mobbs
Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience
The California Institute of Technology

Date : 5 August 2024 (Monday)
Time : 2:30 – 3:30 pm
Venue : LI-6376, 6/F, Li Dak Sum Yip Yio Chin Academic Building, CityU
Moderator : Prof. Andus Wong (Associate Head)
Language : English

Abstract

The natural world presents a myriad of dangers that can threaten an organism's survival. This diversity of threats is matched by a set of universal and species-specific defensive behaviors which are often subsumed under the emotions of fear and anxiety. A major issue in the field of affective science, however, is that these emotions are often conflated and scientists fail to reflect the ecological conditions that gave rise to them. I attempt to clarify these semantic issues by describing the link between ethologically defined defensive strategies and fear. This, in turn, provides a clearer differentiation between fears, the contexts that evoke them, and how they are organized within defensive survival circuits.



Biography

Dean conducted his PhD at University College London, and was a senior scientist at the MRC-CBU at the University of Cambridge. He is a life member of Clare Hall at the University of Cambridge and a former Professor at Columbia University in New York. Currently, Dean is a Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at the California Institute of Technology, and has consulted for Google DeepMind for over a decade. His research is in the neuroscientific and computational underpinnings of social behavior, emotion, and survival behaviors. His research has been published in many leading scientific journals including Science, Neuron, and Nature. He is the recipient of the APS Janet Spence Award for Transformative Early Career Contributions, currently holds a leadership the Allen V. C. Davis and Lenabelle Davis Leadership Chair, and is the director of the Caltech Brain Imaging Center. Prof. Mobbs currently serves as the Departmental Visiting Professor at the Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences at CityU.

ALL ARE WELCOME

(Please register via the QR code)

