

MIND, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY

Seminar Series

UC MERCED, Fall 2016

MONDAY, October 24, 2016 — 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM — COB 114

HOW METAPHOR SHAPES THOUGHT

Metaphors suffuse natural language and are used to frame discussions of important social and political issues. When we talk about a “crime epidemic,” a “gridlocked political system,” and even “falling in love” or “a race against time,” we are borrowing language from one domain to describe another. Recent work in our labs has shown that such metaphors can influence how we think in subtle and surprising ways. We will talk about when and how metaphor shapes thought in the context of real world issues like climate change, policing, and the economy, and what this reveals about how our minds work.

Stephen Flusberg

SUNY Purchase

Stephen Flusberg is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at SUNY Purchase College. His research focuses on how perceptual and cognitive abilities are shaped and constrained by experience, with an emphasis on the relationship between language and thought and how physical actions affect perception and mental imagery. He received his PhD in psychology from Stanford University, and BAs in Psychology and Religion from Northwestern University.



Paul Thibodeau

Oberlin College

Paul Thibodeau is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Oberlin College. His research explores when and how metaphor shapes thought, and what that reveals about the human mind. He received his PhD in psychology from Stanford University and a BA in cognitive science from Swarthmore College.



Please contact Jeff Yoshimi (jyoshimi@ucmerced.edu) for more information.