

# MIND, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY

## *Seminar Series*

UC MERCED, SPRING 2017

Monday, April 10, 2017 — KL 232 — 3:00PM-4:30PM

**Rachel Wu, Ph.D.**

*University of California, Riverside*

**“Cognitive Development Across the Lifespan:  
A New View on Aging”**



In this talk, Dr. Wu will introduce a novel theoretical life course framework that synthesizes research on infant cognitive development, young adult cognitive neuroscience, and cognitive aging to address three points. First, she will specify six critical factors for long-term, broad cognitive development. These factors include: open-minded input-driven learning (e.g., statistical learning), individualized scaffolding, growth mindset, forgiving environment, serious commitment to learning, and learning multiple skills. Second, she will trace the decline of the six factors from infancy to aging adulthood (broad learning to specialization). Finally, she will propose that these six factors can be applied to expand cognitive functioning in aging adults beyond currently known limits.

*Dr. Rachel Wu is Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Riverside. She completed her undergraduate work at Carnegie Mellon University (2006, B.S. in Psychology, B.S. in History and Anthropology), M.S. at University College London (2007), Ph.D. at the University of London (2011), and Diploma in Art at Middlesex University (2011). Prior to her current position, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Rochester. Dr. Wu was also recently honored by a Rising Star Award from the Association for Psychological Science. Her developmental cognitive neuroscience research uses EEG and eye-tracking methods to investigate how we learn from infancy to older adulthood, and how we can continue learning as we age. She was in a rock band as a violinist for 7 years (2003-2010), and also is a professional artist (painting and sculpting). Every few years, she learns to master new skills to explore different ways of disseminating her research findings and gaining a better understanding of the difficulties in being an adult learner.*

**Please contact David Noelle ([dnoelle@ucmerced.edu](mailto:dnoelle@ucmerced.edu)) for more information.**