

Spring 2013

Concourse Friday Seminar

Thinking Across the Disciplines

The Concourse Seminar is dedicated this spring to the critical epistemological question of *how* we can know those things that we think we know. We will consider what knowledge consists of, how we acquire it, and how we can feel certain enough in it to provide us with a direction forward. These broad concerns are not all addressed in the same way across the disciplines, as the standard(s) for truth claims can vary considerably depending on the object of one's inquiry. Over the course of the semester we will hear from a variety of MIT Faculty from a range of Humanities and Social Science disciplines about some aspect of their own work. You will have the opportunity to see how different disciplines think: how they frame questions, how they gather evidence, and how they use that evidence to answer their questions.

February 8	staff
February 15	Heather Paxson, Anthropology: Cheese is Alive
February 22	Dick Samuels, Center for International Studies: 3.11: Disaster and Change in Japan
March 1	Arthur Bahr, Literature: Page Before Print: the Strange and Beautiful Lives of Medieval Manuscripts
March 8	Chris Leighton and Hiromu Nagahara, History: Within the Four Seas, All Men are Strangers: Sino-Japanese Tensions in Historical Context
March 15	Agustin Rayo, Philosophy: The Grandfather Paradox and Other Enigmas
March 22	David Kaiser, STS: Calculating Times: Testing Einstein's Relativity in the Cold War
March 29	Spring Break
April 5	Natasha Schull, STS: The Technology of Gambling Addiction
April 12	Anne McCants, CPW

- April 19 Mary Fuller and Noel Jackson, Literature: Poems and Readers
- April 26 Lucas Stanczyk, Political Science: What Is Wrong with Economic Inequality?
- May 3 Julia Markovits, Philosophy: Saints, Heroes, Sages, and Villains
- May 10 Norvin Richards, Linguistics: How to build a question: lessons from the Dinka language