

Decision Processes Colloquia

Monday, April 3, 2017

Where: 260 JMHH

When: 12:00 – 1:15 pm

David Dunning
Professor of Psychology
Cornell University

We Are All Flawed Intellectuals: So How Can We Judge Expertise in Self and Others?

ABSTRACT:

This talk focuses on the “flawed evaluator” problem in self and social cognition: People possess gaps and defects in their expertise, so how can they accurately judge the knowledge and intellectual skills in the social world? I describe how the flawed evaluator leads to the so-called Dunning-Kruger effect (incompetent people remain unaware of their incompetence), and also to flawed judgments of other people. Specifically, it leads to the Cassandra Curse, in which people accurately spot people around them with poor intellectual and social skills but miss the quality of people possessing superior skill. As such, “genius,” or at least high levels of competence, tends to hide in plain sight, misjudged and underappreciated. I describe how the flawed evaluator problem complicates advice seeking, marketplace of ideas, as well as the wisdom of crowds.

