

Decision Processes Colloquia

Monday, April 14, 2014

Where: TBD JMHH

When: 12:00 – 1:20 pm

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The Existential Gravitas of Nostalgia

ABSTRACT: Nostalgia, a “sentimental longing for one’s past,” has long been considered a brain disease, illness, disorder, or dysfunction. This bad reputation is undeserved. Nostalgia is a predominantly positive (albeit bittersweet) and social emotion, is prevalent, and is a psychological strength not a psychological liability. Importantly, nostalgia confers existential benefits. Nostalgia is associated with, or provides, a sense of meaning in life (mostly through its sociality) and is an antidote to meaning threats including boredom. Nostalgia lowers the perceived value of money. It also enriches the psychological well-being of individuals with chronic meaning deficits. Finally, nostalgia buffers existential threat by reducing death anxiety and death cognitions. In all, nostalgia bolsters existential meaning and protects against the fear of death.



**MARKETING
DEPARTMENT**