

Decision Processes Colloquia

Monday, October 17, 2016

Where: 360 JMHH

When: 12:00 – 1:15 pm

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Perceptions of Expert Conflict and Consensus

ABSTRACT: Many of our beliefs about the world rely heavily on the opinions and findings of experts. How do we respond when experts disagree? I describe two sets of studies on this general topic. The first investigates how highlighting the comments from two experts with conflicting opinions can distort public perceptions of consensus among the broader population of experts on the topic. The second investigates the possibility that reports of conflicting results from scientific studies can lead (some) members of the public to conclude that we have learned nothing from those studies, or even that we “know less” than we did before they were conducted.