

Decision Processes Colloquium

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"The Power of Alternatives: How Counterfactual Thinking, Perspective-Taking, and Multicultural Experiences Create Meaning, Manage Diversity, and Drive Innovation"

This talk blends three lines of research using the lens of alternatives. The first part discusses how reflecting on counterfactual origins – thoughts about how the beginning of institutions and relationships might have gone down alternative paths and turned out differently – increases feelings of commitment to organizations, countries and social connections. The second part explores how perspective-taking – actively considering alternative lenses -- decreases stereotyping and smoothes the cogs of social interaction. The last part explores when and how experiences abroad increase creativity and entrepreneurial activity. These three lines show that the concept of alternatives – realities, perspectives, and experiences – is an important foundation of human progress.