

Decision Processes Colloquia

Monday, February 4, 2013

Where: JMHH 240

When: 12:00 noon to 1:20 PM

Paul Bloom

Brooks and Suzanne Ragen Professor of Psychology & Cognitive Science
Yale University, Department of Psychology

Just Babies

ABSTRACT: Babies possess a rich moral sense--they distinguish between good and bad acts and prefer good characters over bad ones. They feel pain at the pain of others, and might even possess a primitive sense of justice. But this moral sense is narrow. Many principles that are central to adult morality, such as kindness to strangers, are the product of our intelligence and our imagination; they are not in our genes. And some of our natural moral intuitions, having to do with purity, disgust, and even empathy, have perverse consequences—we would be better off without them.