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WHEN SOCIAL SCIENCE MEETS COMPUTER SCIENCE...

Webinar of Computational Social Science Laboratory (CSSL@CUHK)

The History of our Minds Evidence for Co-Evolution of Cultural and Psychological Processes

21 September 2023 (Thursday), 09:30 - 11:00 (UTC+8, HKT)

Abstract

Biologically modern humans are more than 100,000 years old. Many scientists have devoted their lives to understanding how architecture, social structure, and language has changed over this history. Yet we know much less about the history of human minds. Behavioral science research has instead focused nearly exclusively on contemporary people, and psychological theories often draw from taxonomies which assume a culturally and historically stable structure to emotion, personality, morality, and other psychological processes. In this talk, I discuss new methods of studying the “psychological fossil record,” with emerging insights that challenge existing psychological taxonomies. Psychological change is often patterned and predictable based on cultural change, and general evolutionary principles may explain psychological changes in multiple domains. We now have the methodological and theoretical tools to build a more historically enriched science of human cognition and behavior, with a basic capacity to make foundational discoveries and an applied capacity to predict human futures.



Biography

Joshua Conrad Jackson is an Assistant Professor of Behavioral Science at University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. He studies how culture has shaped the mind throughout human history, and how it continues to shape human futures. He has published over 50 papers examining how historical and contemporary changes in technology, conflict, and migration have influenced moral psychology, emotion, prejudices, and belief systems. Prior to joining Booth, Josh was a DRRC Postdoctoral Fellow at the Kellogg School of Management. He earned his PhD from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his BA from McGill University.

Prof. Joshua Conrad Jackson
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