COGNITIVE SCIENCE COLLOQUIUM

Friday, February 5, 2016
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences Building, Room 205

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TITLE: Attention in Space and Time
ABSTRACT: The visual world is complex; it is not possible to process all incoming sensory information at once. Selective attention allows us to prioritize processing of behaviorally relevant information. Selectivity often applies to specific spatial locations and occurs in certain moments of time. In the first part of this talk on “attention in space”, I present evidence that implicit learning affects spatial attention. Borrowing terminologies from memory research, I divide attention into a declarative component - the “where” of attention, and a procedural component - the “how” of attention. I show that implicit learning affects how people deploy attention in a viewer-centered (egocentric) reference frame. I argue that successful target detection serves as a reinforcement signal for learning. In the second part of the talk on “attention in time”, I present behavioral and fMRI evidence that detecting behaviorally relevant events in time facilitates global perceptual and brain function. Such facilitation overcomes dual-task interference and counters the traditional push-pull effects of spatial attention.

If you would like a copy of Professor Jiang’s CV, please contact Nova Hinrichs at nhinrich@email.arizona.edu.