School of Psychology and Exercise Science
Research Seminar

Speaker: Professor Zach Hambrick

Title: ‘Toward a Multifactorial Theory of Expertise: Beyond Born vs Made’

Where: Loneragan Building, Teaching Space (235.3.010)
When: 12:00 – 13:00, Thursday 25\textsuperscript{th} July 2019
Host: Associate Professor Guillermo Campitelli

Abstract:
The debate over the origins of individual differences in expertise has raged on for over a century in psychology. The "nature" view holds that expertise reflects "innate talent"-that is, genetically-determined abilities. The "nurture" view counters that if talent even exists, its effects on ultimate performance are negligible. While no scientist takes seriously a strict nature view of expertise, the nurture view has gained tremendous popularity over the past several decades. I will argue that, despite its popularity, this environmentalist view is inadequate to account for the evidence concerning the origins of expertise. More generally, I will argue that the nature vs. nurture debate in research on expertise is over-or certainly should be, as it has been in other areas of psychological research for decades. I will end by describing a multifactorial model for research on the nature and nurture of expertise.

Biography:
Zach Hambrick is Professor in the Department of Psychology at Michigan State University. His research focuses on individual differences in expertise in complex domains such as music, sports, and science. He is co-founding editor of the Journal of Expertise and is lead editor of the recently published volume The Science of Expertise: Behavioural, Neural, and Genetic Approaches to Complex Skill. He has written about psychological research for The New York Times, Slate, Scientific American, and Politico.

Meeting the presenter:
To arrange a meeting with the presenter, please contact the host.