



## **Aims and Methods of Cultural Neuroscience**

**Dr. Joan Y. Chiao**

**Department of Psychology, Northwestern University**

**18 August 2009 (Tuesday) 11:30am – 12:30pm**

**HSS Seminar Room 3 (HSS-B1-10)**

### **Abstract**

The past century has witnessed a number of theoretical attempts within psychology to integrate cultural and neurobiological approaches in the study of the human mind and behavior. Cultural neuroscience is an emerging research discipline that investigates cultural variation in psychological, neural and genomic processes as a means of articulating the bidirectional relationship of these processes and their emergent properties. In this talk, I will present the principle aims and methods of cultural neuroscience, drawing from recent empirical evidence for how cultural values, beliefs and practices shape the social and emotional brain. Implications of cultural neuroscience for public policy, interethnic ideology and population health issues will be discussed.

### **Biography**

Dr. Joan Chiao is an Assistant Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Northwestern University. Dr. Chiao received her Ph.D. from Harvard University in 2006, studying social psychology and cognitive neuroscience. She completed her undergraduate work at Stanford University graduating in 2000 with a B.S. in Symbolic Systems with Honors. Dr. Chiao's research interests include cultural neuroscience, social and affective neuroscience across development, social dominance and affiliation, and integrating psychology and neuroscience research with public policy and population health issues.

~~~~~ All Are Welcome ~~~~~