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Scientific Inquiry as Foraging

Date : 9 September 2024 (Monday)

Time : 16:45 – 18:15 (HKT)

Venue : LKK302 & Zoom Seminar

Click [HERE](#) to join the zoom meeting room.



During scientific inquiry, scientists search for and select evidence, experiments, methods and more to answer a question or to describe, understand, or explain some phenomenon. The guidance of scientific inquiries, like all inquiry, is a cognitive phenomenon that requires making decisions and, I argue, is subject to novel norms. How should scientists make decisions about what evidence to use or which experiment to run? Given their ignorance, limited resources, and cognitive constraints, how well can they do? In this talk, I will argue that scientific inquiry shares features with foraging and that foraging theory offers a useful set of concepts and normative models for understanding how well scientists can do in making these decisions. I offer an analysis of scientific inquiry, draw out the connections with foraging, and present some novel normative implications of seeing scientific investigation through the foraging lens.

All are welcome

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