Precision Convergence Webinar Series

Intellectual humility in an uncertain and polarized world

By Igor Grossmann
University of Waterloo

With High-Level Panel of Leaders in Science, Technology, On-the-Ground Action, and Policy

Friday, Oct 27, 2023| 11 AM to 1 PM EST (2 hours in duration)

For Remote Participation, please register **HERE**

ABSTRACT: In a time of disagreements about values, politics, and cultural practices, psychological scientists have turned to possible antidotes to societal acrimony – the concept of intellectual humility Interest in wisdom has come from diverse research areas, including leadership and organizational behavior, personality science, positive psychology, judgment/decision-making, education, culture, and intergroup and interpersonal relationships. I will critically examine the diverse approaches to defining and measuring it and describe what many scientists studying intellectual humility see as common across a myriad of definitions: meta-cognitive awareness of one's fallibility and limits of knowledge. After establishing common ground across definitions and reviewing the validity of different measurement approaches, I will highlight research that explores the role of macro- and micro-level factors – from relationship security to interdependence in social coordination – for these characteristics. Furthermore, I will review empirical evidence concerning benefits and drawbacks of these characteristics for personal decision-making, interpersonal relationships, scientific enterprise, and society writ large.

PRESENTER: Igor Grossmann is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Waterloo, specializing in societal change and wisdom, particularly at the intersection of reasoning and ethics. His work involves understanding wise judgment, exploring its distinctiveness beyond abstract intelligence and common personality traits, and assessing its role for mastering pressing societal issues. Utilizing big data, computational models, and AI-assisted research methods, investigates perspectives on societal change, including accuracy of expert judgment about where our societies are heading. Igor completed his PhD in Psychology at the University of Michigan. He has received awards for his research from numerous organizations, including American Psychological Association, Association for Psychological Science, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, and the Member of the College of the Royal Society of Canada. He is also known for creating a collection of post-COVID predictions from leading social scientists (www.WorldafterCovid.info) and founding the Forecasting Collaborative to assess the accuracy of social science predictions for pressing societal challenges of today and tomorrow. Additionally, he co-hosts the "On Wisdom Podcast" (onwisdompodcast.com), aimed at sharing scientific insights with a broader audience.

About the series: The precision convergence series is launched to catalyze unique synergy between, on the one hand, novel partnerships across sciences, sectors and jurisdictions around targeted domains of real-world solutions,and on the other hand, a next generation convergence of AI with advanced research computing and other data and digital architectures such as PSC's Bridges-2, and supporting data sharing frameworks such as HuBMAP, informing in a real time as possible the design, deployment and monitoring of solutions for adaptive real-world behavior and context.

The McGill Centre for the Convergence of Health and Economics (MCCHE) is a virtual world network of scientist, action and policy leaders promoting the weaving of digital-powered interdisciplinary science into person-centered domain-specific solutions at scale to global challenges faced by traditional and modern economy and society worldwide. The MCCHE stimulates lasting collaborations that bridge the many divides in the market, economy, and society that are at the root of these most pressing modern challenges through collaborative of modular convergence innovation platforms.

The Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center is a joint computational research center between Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh. Established in 1986, PSC is supported by several federal agencies, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and private industry. PSC provides university, government, and industrial researchers with access to several of the most powerful systems for high-performance computing, communications, and data-handling available to scientists and engineers nationwide for unclassified research. PSC advances the state-of-the-art in high-performance computing, communications and informatics and offers a flexible environment for solving the largest and most challenging problems in computational science.

Co-Chairs:

Laurette Dubé, PhD is the founding Chair and Scientific Director of the McGill Centre for the Convergence of Health Economics. She holds the James McGill Chair of Consumer and Lifestyle Psychology and Marketing. Her work has been published in top disciplinary journals in Psychology, Management and Medicine as well as in multidisciplinary journals. She holds an MBA in finance, and a PhD in behavioural decision making and consumer psychology. During her 2020-2021 sabbatical, she is a visiting scholar at the National Research Council of Canada and at the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center, Carnegie Mellon, USA
https://thefutureeconomy.ca/interviews/ laurette-dube

Sergiu Sanielevici, Ph.D. is Director of Support for Scientific Applications at the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center, a joint project of Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh. He has served as the Deputy Director of the Extended Collaborative Support Service of the US NSF XSEDE project and as the manager of its Novel and Innovative Projects program, fostering non-traditional and interdisciplinary applications of advanced computing and data resources since 2011. He is currently the Principal Investigator of the Bridges-2 project and co-Principal Investigator of the Neocortex project at PSC. Dr. Sanielevici is a proud alumnus of McGill University (Ph.D., Physics, 1986).

Panelists:

Simon DeDeo is an Associate Professor and William S. Dietrich III Career Development Chair at Carnegie Mellon University's Department of Social and Decision Sciences, and External Faculty at the Santa Fe Institute. He runs the Laboratory for Social Minds, an interdisciplinary group in the cognitive, computer, and economic sciences; recent research from the Laboratory includes work on explanation and conspiracy-thinking, argument-making and deliberation, theory of mind, and on the role of computational complexity in human cognition.

Signy Sheldon is an Associate Professor in the department of Psychology at McGill University. Sheldon's work focuses on understanding how and why we remember events and episodes. Prof. Sheldon uses behavioural experiments, work with patient populations and neuroimaging techniques to discover (1) the role of the hippocampus and related brain structures in storing and retrieving episodic memories (2) the functions of remembering by examining how memory processes contribute to non-mnemonic abilities, like imagination and problem solving (3) how individual differences in the way we remember are reflected in the brain.

Kennon Sheldon is a professor of Psychological Sciences at the University of Missouri, USA. He received his B.S. in psychology from Duke University in 1981 and his Ph.D. in social/personality psychology from the University of California, Davis in 1992. He is known for his research on happiness, motivation, and goals. His prominent research questions include "Can happiness go up, and then stay up?", "Are people able to pick life-goals that better express their true desires and deeper potentials?" and "how can the concept of personal agency be reconciled with the concept of a deterministic universe?" He is the prolific author of more than 300 academic articles and book chapters. He is also the author of *Freely determined: What the new psychology of the self teaches us about how to live* (2022) and *Optimal Human Being: An Integrated Multi-level Perspective* (2004), and has edited several other academic books such as *Designing Positive Psychology: Taking Stock and Moving Forward* (2011) and *Stability of Happiness: Theories and Evidence on Whether Happiness can Change* (2014).

Roy F. Baumeister is a psychology professor at the University of Queensland. He received his Ph.D. in social psychology from Princeton in 1978 and did a postdoctoral fellowship in sociology at the University of California at Berkeley. He worked for years at Case Western Reserve University and Florida State University. Baumeister's research spans multiple topics, including self and identity, self-regulation, interpersonal rejection and the need to belong, sexuality and gender, aggression, self-esteem, meaning, and self-presentation. He has received research grants from the National Institutes of Health and from the Templeton Foundation. He has nearly 700 publications, and his 42 books include Evil: Inside Human Violence and Cruelty, The Cultural Animal, Meanings of Life, and the New York Times bestseller Willpower: Rediscovering the Greatest Human Strength. Other scientists have referred in their publications to his work over 200,00 times, making him among the handful of most cited (most influential) psychologists in the world.

Jorge Armony holds the Canada Research Chair in Affective Neuroscience and is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Psychiatry, McGill University. Dr. Armony conducts research on how the brain detects stimuli in the environment that may signal threat or danger, and how this mechanism interacts with other processes, such as consciousness, attention, and memory. In his quest for answers, Dr. Armony uses several state-of-the-art research techniques, including functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), behavioral and physiological measures (i.e. skin conductance and heart rate), as well as computational modeling. Dr. Armony has made significant contributions toward the understanding of psychiatric disorders involving dysfunctions of the fear system.