

2010/2011 Seminar Series

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Sentient Algorithms: A Psychological Basis for Artificial Consciousness

By:

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Ever thought about the “Hard Question,” the true nature of consciousness? Reductionism may be a dirty word to some; however, the coming century will see a sustained effort to join physics and biology to higher level constructs in psychology and philosophy. The applications of such knowledge will be irresistible: religion and politics will seem so abstract when computers have a sense of humour. Our worldly creations come before the creations of the mind. But just how close are we to a reductionist explanation of consciousness? Are we still plagued by the specter of Descartes’ dualism? How can we apply what we know now, to build the intelligent systems of the future?

This talk is in partial fulfillment for a CS4999 Independent studies course called “A Psychological Basis for Artificial Consciousness”, for J. D. Horton. Aaron Michaux has bachelor degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science, and is a fourth year Psychology student at STU. He is interested in exploring the human condition with computers. You can find a collection of his essays at: <http://www.pageofswords.net>

**Wednesday, December 1st @ 3:30pm
Information Technology Centre C-317**