

**CENTER FOR COGNITIVE SCIENCE**  
University at Buffalo, State University of New York

**Wednesday, October 13, 2004**

280 Park Hall  
North Campus  
2:00 pm –4:00 pm

**Michael Webster, Ph.D.**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**University of Nevada**

**“Adaptation and the phenomenology of perception”**

To what extent do we have shared or unique perceptual experiences? I will discuss how the answer to this question is constrained by known processes of sensory adaptation. Adaptation continuously renormalizes visual coding according to the stimuli currently before us. These adjustments have a large influence on how the world looks, and thus should influence whether it looks the same or different to others. If two individuals are exposed to and thus adapted by different environments, then their perception will be normalized in different ways and their subjective experiences will differ. This will be illustrated through examples of the effects of adaptation on color perception and face recognition. When intrinsically different individuals are exposed to a common environment, their perception will instead be normalized in common ways and their subjective experiences will be similar. This will be illustrated through examples of the influence of adaptation on the perception of image blur. Adaptation may partly serve to highlight how the present scene differs from the history of scene properties we have adapted to, and thus much of what we notice about the world may be a visual aftereffect.

**Refreshments will be available**

Open to the Public!

For information please or check

<http://www.cogsci.buffalo.edu/Activities/Colloquium/CLLQf04/2004fall.htm>