

Math, Productivity, Happiness & Decision-making

Organizer(s): Andrew Critch and Nisan Stiennon

Wednesdays, 5:00–6:00pm, 740 Evans

Fri, Jan 18 **Andrew Critch**, UC Berkeley

Overview and Organizational Meeting

Most of us want to be happier, get things done, help other people, have a sense of purpose, and achieve other such deeply human goals. In this seminar, we hope to take advantage of our analytic minds — our comparative advantage as mathematical thinkers — to address these goals. We will generally assume the tennet that if a life skill (e.g. reasoning under uncertainty, time management, emotional skill, social skill...) applies to many of these goals at once, then, sooner or later, it is worth a serious, concerted, and collaborative effort. We will strive to consciously formulate our beliefs and values as world-models and optimization problems, and develop a sufficiently common language in which to discuss them. Finally, we hope to draw as much insight as possible from modern repositories of knowledge on psychology, neuroscience, education, economics, and anything else that tells us what a good strategy is and how to actually implement it on an organic human brain.

Website: <http://math.berkeley.edu/~critch/mphd/>