

Eastern Michigan University  
McKenny Hall, Guild Room (330)

## "HOW WE UNDERSTAND OTHERS"

Saturday, March 7//12:30-1:30 pm

### ABSTRACT:

In our ordinary interactions with others, we try to figure out what people are thinking, why they did what they did, and what they are going to do next. This capacity is known as mindreading. In this talk, I articulate a new theory of mindreading that takes into account cutting edge philosophical and empirical research on in-group/out-group dynamics, social biases, and how our goals and the situational context influence how we interpret others' behavior. The resulting theory of mindreading provides a more accurate, comprehensive, and perhaps pessimistic view of our abilities to understand others, with important epistemological and ethical implications. Deciding who is trustworthy, knowledgeable, and competent are epistemically and ethically fraught judgments: this new theory of mindreading sheds light on how these judgments are made and the conditions under which they are unreliable.

