



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Psychology

Fall 2020 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

The Psychology Department is pleased to announce:

Promotion Series | Introductory remarks by Lee Ryan

Understanding how the brain stores and
retrieves a lifetime of autobiographical memories:
Insights from amnesia and cognitive aging

Matthew Grilli, Ph.D.

Psychology Department, The University of Arizona

Friday, October 2, 2020

3:00 p.m. MST

<https://arizona.zoom.us/j/96088133842>

Autobiographical memories contribute to many daily behaviors by shaping our decision making, guiding our social interactions, and creating a sense of self that extends across time. However, many fundamental questions remain regarding how the brain stores and retrieves autobiographical memories. Similarly, why autobiographical remembering appears to change with older age is underspecified. In the first part of my talk, I will propose an “experience-near versus experience-far” framework for understanding medial and anterolateral temporal lobe involvement in the retrieval of autobiographical knowledge. I will show how our research on amnesia is supporting several features of this new framework. In the second part of my talk, I will turn to the topic of cognitive aging and present evidence that assessing autobiographical remembering, using both laboratory and naturalistic methods, has potential to reveal new cognitive markers of higher risk for Alzheimer’s disease. Throughout the talk, I will reflect on the implications of our findings for assessment and treatment of neurological damage and disease.

With questions about access or to request any disability-related accommodations for this talk, please contact Vanessa Noonkester, vnoonkester@email.arizona.edu