ABSTRACT: In a world where increases in digital information processing produce massive amounts of archived data and corpora, new teaching methods and tools for investigating vast archives are needed. Large databases are often difficult to access and use, constraining students who seek to learn about a database’s contents and employ it in original creative research. In this presentation I will describe MDP research that aims to address this need. Our team of MDP researchers is developing a rich public-access database as an open internet resource that will facilitate scholarly research in an interdisciplinary and empirical manner. The database’s contents will permit investigation of the formation of individual concept formation and shared knowledge, including the evolution and dispersion of linguistic concepts across groups. The public-access database and its planned toolbox of procedures aim to be a “one-stop” fully integrated platform, making it a unique resource for student training and research on database exploration, and a platform for professional research publications.

SPEAKER BIO: Kimberly A. Jameson is a cognitive scientist conducting research at the Institute for Mathematical Behavioral Sciences at the University of California, Irvine (http://www.imbs.uci.edu/~kjameson/kjameson.html). Color perception plays a prominent role in her empirical and theoretical work, which includes research on the mathematical modeling of color category evolution among communicating artificial agents; individual variation and universals in human color cognition and perception; empirical work on the genetic basis of human color perception; and comparative investigations of the ways the world’s cultures name and conceptualize environmental color. Jameson received her PhD from the Cognitive Science department at UC Irvine. She directs the Color Cognition Laboratory at UC Irvine, and is the lead researcher responsible for the preservation, transcription, digitalization, and public-access dissemination of the Robert E. MacLaury cross-cultural color categorization archive.

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