

Fall 2010 Seminar  
Department of Computer Science  
University of Houston

September 15, 2010  
PGH 232; 11:00 AM

**SPEAKER:** Dr. James Blascovich, University of California, Santa Barbara

Host: Dr. Zhigang Deng

**TITLE:** Social Influence within Virtual Environments

**ABSTRACT:**

This talk describes the general nature of virtual environments and the roles of the major factors governing social influence and social interaction within virtual environment together with relevant research.

**Short BIO:**

Professor of Psychology. Jim earned his B.S. in psychology at Loyola University of Chicago (1968) and Ph.D. in social psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno (1972). He held academic positions at the University of Nevada, Reno (72-73), Marquette University (73-80), and SUNY at Buffalo (80-95) before coming to UCSB. He Co-Directs the Research Center for Virtual Environments and Behavior. Jim is a past President of both the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Inc (Div. 8 of APA), and the Society of Experimental Social Psychology. He is a Member of the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, a Charter Fellow of the American Psychological Society, and a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. He was awarded the Inaugural Australasian Social Psychology Society/Society of Personality and Social Psychology Teaching Fellowship (2002) and an Erskine Fellowship (2005) at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. He has also received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research at UCSB (2001). He has served on several grant review panels, was appointed to the National Academy of Science/National Research Council Committee to Evaluate the Scientific Evidence on the Polygraph, and currently Chairs the NAS/NRC Panel on priorities for military research. He serves on the editorial boards of numerous journals, and National Science Foundation has continuously funded his research for more than 15 years.