From: Inform
Subject: EM: Dept. of Natural Sciences Seminar Friday 04/11

From: Lauran Soto

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL SCIENCES SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT:

"*Language Models, Language Processing, and the Structure of Human Language*"

Richard Futrell
University of California, Irvine

Friday, April 11th, 2025
Burns Lecture Hall (NS E007)
12:15-1:15 PM

Abstract: What can language models tell us about how human language works? I show that neural network language models, like the ones underlying ChatGPT, process language in a way that is similar to humans. This is because both language models and the human brain have a core task of predicting upcoming input based on previous input. The fact that humans process language this way imposes constraints on the structure of human language: it must be structured in a way that makes incremental prediction easy. I show that this constraint explains universal properties of languages across the world, and I show that it explains language models' ability to learn human-like and non-human-like languages.

Find additional DNS seminar information here: https://www.kecksci.claremont.edu/seminars/
Best,
Lauran Soto - Administrative Assistant (she/they)
Department of Natural Sciences, Pitzer and Scripps Colleges
925 N. Mills Ave, Claremont, CA 91711
Office Phone: (909) 621-8489