



“Changes in the Visible Field Caused by ‘Between-legs’ Viewing and the Psychological Phenomena Associated Therewith”

Ritsumeikan University College of Letters Professor Atsuki Higashiyama to Give First Overseas Lecture in London on His Ig Nobel Prize-winning Perception Research

Ritsumeikan University is proud to present College of Letters Professor Atsuki Higashiyama’s first overseas lecture since winning the 26th Ig Nobel perception prize last fall. This lecture will be held in London, England.

Last September, Professor Higashiyama was awarded the Ig Nobel perception prize for his research on how visual and proprioceptive sources of information affect the perceived distance of objects when looking through one’s legs (the “between-legs effect”). According to the Ig Nobel Prize homepage, the prizes “honor achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think. [They] are intended to celebrate the unusual, honor the imaginative – and spur people’s interest in science, medicine, and technology.”

Since winning his prize, Professor Higashiyama has been bombarded with requests from the Japanese media, and he has appeared on several TV and radio programs. The prize-winning “between-legs effect” has even become a social phenomenon. With a caption of “changing how you look at things, changes how you see them,” one Japanese newspaper even cited Professor Higashiyama’s “between-legs effect” in a cartoon lampooning certain heads of state.

Inquiries from the foreign media have also started pouring in, which is why Ritsumeikan University has decided to sponsor Professor Higashiyama’s first-ever overseas lecture since the Ig Nobel Prize ceremony. Come to think & have a good laugh at the same time!!

Date & Time: Friday, **24 February 2017**, 19:00-19:30 (followed by a networking reception)

Venue: Room 111, 1st floor, **Brunei Gallery, SOAS, University of London** *[MAP](#)

THIS SEMINAR IS A PART OF “RITSUMEIKAN SEMINAR SERIES” AND FREE OF CHARGE BUT THE REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL BY 22/02/2017 via [Eventbrite](#).

26th Ig Nobel Perception Prize: “The Between-legs Effect”

Professor Higashiyama has spent many years of studying the topics of spatial perception and the relationship between the sense of touch and pain. As part of his research, he has studied the psychological phenomenon of how the field of view flattens and objects appear smaller and farther away when viewed from the inverted “between legs” position. (This was the work for which he was recognized with the Ig Nobel Prize.) He points to Amanohashidate, a famous sandbar in northern Kyoto, as a prime example of this effect. When viewed from between one’s legs, as is the popular custom, it appears like a stairway to the sky. He used a series of carefully designed tests to show that this change in visual perception was caused by an inversion of body orientation rather than an inversion of retinal image orientation.

1. Profile of Professor Atsuki Higashiyama

August 1951:	Born in Kasai City, Hyogo Prefecture
March 1974:	Graduated, Osaka City University Faculty of Literature and Human Sciences, Department of Human Relations
March 1974:	Graduated, Osaka City University Graduate School of Literature and Human Sciences Master’s Program
March 1978:	Withdrew A.B.D., Osaka City University Graduate School of Literature and Human Sciences Doctoral Program
1978 - 1996:	Research Associate → Assistant Professor → Associate Professor, Osaka City University Graduate School of Science
December 1983:	Earned Doctor of Letters
1996 - present:	Professor, Ritsumeikan University College of Letters, Department of Psychology

2. News Articles on Professor Higashiyama’s Ig Nobel Prize

Japanese: <http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/news/detail/?id=390>

English: <http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/news/detail/?id=85>

3. This seminar is also supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, London.

