

# Fall 2016 SWIP-Analytic Events

Speaker | Date | Topic

## Laura Pérez

Harvard University

Monday, November 7th, 1:00-2:00pm (A reception will follow)

CUNY, The Graduate Center, NYC. Room 5409.



## “Visual Properties and Social Groups”

In the middle of the 1990's, social psychologists started to examine social perception –i.e., individuals' perceptions of other individuals– in terms of 'entitativity'. *Entitativity* is referred to the degree in which a collection of human individuals is perceived as being bonded together in a cohesive unit. Some social psychologists have been interested in the linkage of social perception with (i) our judgments about the entitativity of groups; (ii) mechanisms of learning and attending to groups; and (iii) the attribution of shared goals and shared traits to groups. Based, partly, on our perceptions of groups, we may predict their behavior well, decide to join or leave a group, and, in general, form perceptual beliefs about their goals and traits. The problem I tackle here is: what does this literature suggest regarding the nature of our visual experiences about social groups? I focus on the visual properties we see instantiated in groups of individuals to predict their behavior, to join or to leave them, and to form perceptual beliefs about their goals and traits. I will make the case that visual properties related to *perceived cohesiveness* or *unity* are seen as being instantiated in social groups.

SWIP-Analytic is made possible through the generous support of  
NYU's New York Institute of Philosophy,  
The CUNY Graduate Center Department of Philosophy,  
The John H. Kornblith Family Chair at the GC, CUNY  
The Committee for Interdisciplinary Science Studies, GC, CUNY

THE  
GRADUATE  
CENTER  
CITY UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW YORK

