“Strategic Control"

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In this talk, I will give an account of the strategic control that is characteristic of skill. Strategic control refers to the goals, plans, and strategies that an agent uses to guide her skilled action. Notably, I’ll claim that, with practice, agents become not only better at implementing their intentions more accurately or effectively but that the intentions or plans themselves become more appropriate and responsive to the specific nuances and realities of the contexts in which the skill is performed. As plans and strategies become more controlled, the agent is able to modify, adjust, manipulate, and shape those plans to more flexibly, reliably and accurately to achieve task success.

Relying on empirical evidence concerning mental practice in sports psychology, I’ll claim that our best theory of strategic control should be committed to the following: (1) through practice, agents learn to plan and organize their skills effectively, (2) the plans that structure skilled actions are practical and not theoretical, (3) these plans are personal-level, deliberate, rational states, and (4) the plans are perceptual and motor in nature.

Friday, September 21, 2018
Room: 218 Paterson Hall
Time: 1:00 p.m.