

(Professor Daniel Gilbert and David Levari, Social Psychology)

### **Moving the goal posts: Criterion shifts in signal detection**

Your everyday life is full of detection tasks – situations in which you need to categorize the thing you’re looking at into a category that you care about. Is this milk spoiled or not? Is that person walking across the yard at night suspicious or harmless? Does the cute student in my Spanish class like me too? What happens when our definitions of the things we’re searching for – spoiled milk, dangerous pedestrians, mutual crushes – change? Do we realize what can make them change, or do we not realize that they change at all?

### **Who should you ask for help?: Task performance and advice giving**

When you need help learning a new skill, who do you go to for help – someone who is really great at that skill, or someone who is ok, but not the best? Many people consider this a trivial decision, but maybe the story is not so simple. We’re looking at the intersection of task performance (how good you are at something) and advice giving (how good you are at improving someone else’s performance). At the end of the day, do advice seekers know who to ask?

*If you’re interested in either of these projects, we would love your help in the Gilbert lab in William James Hall! The time commitment is 10-12 hours per week, and students can volunteer or receive course credit through Psych 2580r.*

*Please contact David (dlevari at fas dot harvard dot edu) for more information.*