



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN COMPUTER VISION

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“Dancing chickens and gorillas in the lung: If I can see so much, why do I miss so much?”

Monday, November 9, 2015 · 2:00PM · HEC 101



ABSTRACT

When you open your eyes on a new scene, you immediately see something. You can understand the basic ‘gist’ of that scene within a fraction of a second. You can remember that seen for days after a just a few seconds exposure. Nevertheless, we can easily show that you are ‘blind’ or at least remarkably amnesic about very basic aspects of what you have just seen. I will attempt to explain this seemingly contradictory collection of abilities and limits. Moreover, I will discuss the impact of these aspects of normal human vision and attention on important tasks like airport security and cancer screening.

BIOGRAPHY

Jeremy Wolfe is Professor of Ophthalmology and Professor of Radiology at Harvard Medical School. He is Director of the Visual Attention Lab and the Center for Advanced Medical Imaging at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Wolfe received an AB in Psychology in 1977 from Princeton and his PhD in Psychology in 1981 from MIT under the supervision of Richard Held. His research focuses on visual search and visual attention with a particular interest in socially important search tasks in areas such as medical image perception (e.g. cancer screening), security (e.g. baggage screening), and intelligence. He is Immediate Past-Chair of the Psychonomic Society and just ended his term as Editor of Attention, Perception, and Psychophysics.