What? This Semester, we will continue with the “mini-experiment” format for Group Seminar. Each participant will make brief presentations twice during the semester. The first presentation (~10 min), made sometime during the first three weeks, will consist of a proposal for an experiment. The proposal will be presented in the traditional format of i) statement of problem, ii) hypothesis, iii) proposed methods, iv) possible outcomes and their anticipated implications for your future research. The proposal should be designed such that the mini-experiment can be completed in 2-3 weeks. The proposed experiment should also fit into the flow of your research. The second presentation (~20 min) will be made during the second half of the semester, following the completion of your mini-experiment. During the second presentation you will first review your first presentation, then describe your results and your interpretation of the results. The conclusion of the presentation should include a statement of what you plan to do next.

As always, we will have time at the end of each session for brief research updates.

Why? We all need practice in applying the traditional (but effective) scientific method. Although we all tend to present our research results in this framework, we do not always have the discipline to follow the scientific method in our day-to-day thinking and planning. I hope this exercise will reinforce the value of a well-planned experiment, no matter how simple or straightforward the experiment.

Who? All those enrolled in 298 (Sands) will participate, although participation is not required if you are presenting a practice talk for a qualifying exam or a conference. Visitors and guests are welcome to participate as well.

Where? We will meet Thursdays at 2 PM in 506 Evans. As in previous semesters, I will attempt to move the seminar to 597 if it is available.

When? Seminars will be held on Jan. 31st; Feb. 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th; Mar. 7th, 14th and 21st; Apr. 11th, 18th and 25th; May 2nd, 9th and 16th.

TDS 1/26/02

See the most recent update of seminar schedule on the next page…
Schedule (as of 1/26/02)

Jan. 31st  **Seminar by Prof. Tao Yu, Berkeley Scholar**

Feb. 7th  Pushkar (II Fall/I Spring); Eric (II Fall/I Spring)

Feb. 14th  Vorrada (II Fall/I Spring); Peter (I); Alex (I)

Feb. 21st  **Seminar by Amy - Research Plans for Harvard**
            **Seminar by Marisol - Research Update**

Feb. 28th  Elif (I); Jeremy S. (I); Tao Su (I)

Mar. 7th  ZhongSheng (I); Yonah (I); Janell (I)

Mar. 14th  Jeremy K. (I); Woong (I); Jenny (I)

Mar. 21st  **MRS Practice Talks**

Apr. 11th  Pushkar (II); Eric (II); Vorrada (II)

April 18th  Peter (II); Alex (II); Elif (II)

April 25th  Jeremy S. (II); Tao Su (II); ZhongSheng (II)

May 2nd  Yonah (II); Janell (II); Jeremy K. (II)

May 9th  Woong (II); Jenny (II)

May 16th  **Seminar by George D.**