Xflash # 24   **September 12, 2014**

Welcome back! The Xlab has been running at full speed all summer, but we are ready for the new academic year. Here's what's new:

Informational Meeting: On Friday, October 3rd, the eXperimental social science LABoratory (Xlab) will host an informational meeting from noon to 1 in the lab (Haas S460). If you come you will have a chance to meet the lab staff and learn about:
-   Navigating the perilous labyrinth of human-subjects regulations and getting CPHS approval
-   Scheduling experiments in Xlab
-   Xlab's small grants program
-   New system of fees for using Xlab, and how to get out of paying them
-   Taking the lab into the world: the mobile laptop cart and Xlab Mobile

This will also be an opportunity for you to tell us how Xlab could operate better. What rules or procedures at the lab make it more difficult for you to run your sessions and collect your data? How could the lab serve you better? What ideas do you have for things that the lab could be doing but isn't?

Refreshments will be served. So that we know how much food to get, you <u>must</u> RSVP here if you plan to attend: https://berkeley.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_e99T8kuxTHY9Ut7

New Xlab Director: Don Moore assumed the role of Xlab Faculty Director on July 1, following Prof. Shachar Kariv's successful completion of five years at the helm. Prof. Moore holds the Lorraine Tyson Mitchell Chair in Leadership and Communication at the Haas School. His research interests focus on overconfidence, including when people think they're better than they are, when they think they are better than others, and when they are too sure they know the truth. His work examines overconfidence in decision-making, negotiation, and ethical choice. He is Co-PI, with Barbara Mellers and Phil Tetlock, on a major research grant from the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity for: *Exploring the optimal forecasting frontier: How much room is there to improve subjective forecasting accuracy?*

Expanded Hours: Xlab is offering additional hours during the work day, and will now be open 9 a.m. to 5:00 for *full-service*. Additionally, the Xlab offers extended hours on evenings and weekends (whatever hours the Haas building is open, usually until 10:00 pm on weekdays) on a *self-service* basis.

Grants for research using the Xlab are still available! Xlab awards grants of $1-2K to graduate students and junior faculty, to be used for paying subjects in Xlab-based research. See the Xlab website for details.

User Fees at the Xlab? The Xlab was created through a grant from the National Science Foundation and has never charged investigators for use of the lab. But to ensure the continued functioning of the Xlab we are instituting modest user fees. Read more: http://xlab.berkeley.edu/3researchers/1benefitsofxlab/administrativeservices.html

Beginning in January 2015, all users will be charged a fee for using the Xlab.

- *Would everyone have to pay?* In theory, Yes. But for those for whom this would be a hardship, Xlab will discount or waive these fees. We hope that faculty can use the formula to justify building Xlab costs into funding and grant proposals.

- *Why doesn't the University pay for the Xlab?* Xlab already receives substantial University support—from the Dean of Haas and from the Dean of the College of Letters and Science. It just isn't enough to maintain the Xlab as a first-rate facility.

Plan Ahead! A look at the **schedule for August** showed that there is already a high demand for time in the Xlab. September is starting to fill up, too. Don't leave it until the end of the semester to conduct your experiments—that's the lab's busiest time.

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> **The Xlab is now ten years old**! In April, the Xlab celebrated its tenth birthday. Over that decade, Xlab has facilitated 3,600 experimental sessions, involving over 39,000 subjects. That involved paying out over $680,000 in subject fees.

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