Perception and Probability

Steven Gross (Johns Hopkins)

Much work in perception science posits probabilistic representations. But, as the title of a recent paper by Ned Block puts it: If perception is probabilistic, why does it not seem probabilistic? One answer is that, though perceptual processing involves probabilistic representations, there is a transition to a non-probabilistic representation prior to conscious experience. I will defend this reply by responding to John Morrison's argument that conscious perceptual experience *is* probabilistic; to Ned Block's argument that perception science does *not* require probabilistic representations; and to a puzzle concerning the apparent *return* to probabilistic representations after conscious experience.