

1st International Conference on Interactivity, Language and Cognition



CALL FOR PAPERS

Venue

University of Southern Denmark, Odense
September 12th to 14th, 2012

Invited speakers

David Kirsh
University of California at San Diego

Nigel Love
University of Cape Town

Bert Hodges
Gordon College and University of Connecticut

Susan Duncan
University of Chicago

Alexander Kravchenko
Baikal National University of Economics and Law

Steve Thorne
*Portland State University and
University of Groningen*

Stephen Cowley
University of Hertfordshire

Deadlines

January 31st
Abstract submissions

April 15th
Notice of acceptance

June 1st
Early Bird registration closes

August 15th
Registration closes

Background

In recent years, cognitive science has been increasingly influenced by a distributed approach to cognition. On the distributed view, cognition is traced to how human beings integrate neural, bodily and extra-corporeal events and activities. Cognition is Situated, Embodied, Extended and Distributed: it is not localized within the individual, but rather across distributed systems that integrate neural and bodily resources, other persons and material artefacts. On this view, cognition is neither based on the symbol-processing machinery posited in first generation cognitive science, nor reducible to embodied activities by living individuals. Rather, it goes beyond the brain and the individual body, and its basis lies in *interactivity* or how agents connect with each other both directly and through material and symbolic artefacts.

Taking the distributed approach into the realm of human language, the Distributed Language Group (DLG) rejects the distinction between intra-personal cognition and inter-personal communication. It denies that language is reducible to the representation of thought, the exchange of messages or the co-construction of meaning. Rather, emphasising the shared activity of *linguaging*, emphasis falls on how the materiality of symbolic resources constrain the bodily and cognitive dynamics of human beings. Linguaging thus extends and directs the action-perception cycles of persons and groups by re-enacting shared symbols from the phylo- and ontogenetic past.

A distributed approach to language and cognition is pursued by treating languaging as pivotal to social, cultural and biological development and maintenance. This ensures that it can be described in terms of verbal patterns, sociocultural practices, and, just as crucially, in terms of real-time embodied interactivity that link people within their environments.

Aim

CILC aims at placing the study of human interactivity, including language and cognition, within the context of human culture and the life sciences. With its trans-disciplinary agenda, it will link researchers across Distributed Language and Cognition.

True to its broad topic, CILC therefore invites researchers from linguistics, cognitive science, psychology, anthropology, biology, etc., to address the following research questions:

- *How do the interbodily dynamics of human interactivity shape languaging and in turn how does languaging shape the dynamics of human interactivity?*
- *How do linguistic, symbolic and gestural structures constrain these interbodily dynamics?*
- *How are human agency, the cultural order, technology, landscapes and ecosystems influenced by the talk, texts, and material products of human languaging?*

Invited speakers

The aim of describing and explaining human interactivity involving the symbolic and material cues of language in terms of bodily dynamics is reflected in the choice of invited speakers; half will be linguists and the other half non-linguists:

David Kirsh
University of California at San Diego

Nigel Love
University of Cape Town

Bert Hodges
Gordon College and University of Connecticut

Susan Duncan
University of Chicago

Alexander Kravchenko
Baikal National University of Economics and Law

Steve Thorne
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Stephen Cowley
University of Hertfordshire

Form

The conference will take place from 12th to 14th September 2012. In order to create a stimulating intellectual environment, all papers will be given in plenary. Posters will be presented throughout the conference.

Prior to the conference, on Tuesday 11th September 2012, the Distributed Language Group will host a number of parallel sessions, organized by the DLG research clusters. Further information is available at the conference homepage: www.sdu.dk/cilc2012.

Conference fees

Early Bird registration € 200
Before 1 June

Later registration € 225
No later than 15 August

Reduced fee € 120
Available to Ph.D. students and participants from countries listed as 'low economic resources countries' by the World Bank

Outcomes

The organizers aim at publishing select papers in one book or two special issues, either of an existing journal or the initial issues of a new journal run under the auspices of the *Association for the Study of Interactivity, Language and Cognition*. When submitting an abstract, please indicate whether you would be interested in your work being published in the volume. Full paper submissions are expected no later than January 1, 2013 and will subsequently be reviewed prior to publication.

In addition, there are plans for launching a learned society, the *Association for the Study of Interactivity, Language and Cognition* (ASILC). This will organise biennial CILC conferences and, eventually, publish a journal (two international publishers have expressed interest).

Call for Papers

We invite submissions of abstracts for papers and posters, presenting current research addressing Interactivity, Language and Cognition, preferably related to the distributed language and cognition movement. Paper presentations are planned as 30-minute talks (including questions).

Please go to the abstract submission form at www.sdu.dk/cilc2012. Fill in the following information:

- Name, affiliation, and email address for each author
- The title of the paper
- Abstract submitted in PDF format (uploaded on the web site form)

The abstract must be anonymous and conform to the following guidelines:

- An abstract must be no more than 400 words (not including references) and no more than two pages in length, in type no smaller than 12 point.
- Your name should only appear in the abstract submission form. If you identify yourself in any way on the abstract (e.g. 'In Smith (1992).. I'), the abstract will be rejected without being evaluated.
- Abstracts that do not conform to the format guidelines will not be considered.

All proposed papers will be anonymously reviewed by two reviewers.

Please indicate whether you wish to give a paper or poster presentation. In case you intend to give a paper: if your abstract is not accepted due to the number of submitted abstracts, please indicate whether you are willing to (1) give a poster presentation, or (2) give a paper presentation at DLG research cluster workshops which are planned for Tuesday the 11th September 2012.

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Organizing Committee

Sune Vork Steffensen (chair)
Steven Breunig
Astrid Jensen
Christian Mosbæk Johannessen
Sarah Bro Pedersen
Lone Marianne Willemoes
Stephen Cowley (University of Hertfordshire)
Paul Thibault (Agder University and Hong Kong University)

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John Sutton
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Links

www.sdu.dk/cilc2012
www.facebook.com/cilc2012

Contact

Further information
cilc2012@language.sdu.dk