



Rethinking Problem Solving

A Symposium on Distributed Cognition

15 & 16 July 2010

Kingston University London
Penrhyn Road Campus

Sponsored and organized by Kingston Psychology
and the Distributed Language Group

Kingston Psychology



Distributed Language Group

Research on problem solving focuses on what an experimenter specifies as a *problem representation*. Experimental methods are used to examine the mechanisms by which this representation evolves in the process of finding a solution. The approach reflects a strong internalist commitment: the problem representation is assumed to be 'mental' and the mechanisms that modify this representation operate strictly within the problem-solving agent. The Kingston symposium will question this view by examining problem solving as distributed cognition. From this perspective, thinking describes processes that involve brain, body, and environmental resources in identifying, exploring, and finding solutions to problems a reasoner encounters or creates.

The symposium will take place at Kingston University on 15 and 16 July 2010. We invite abstracts (max. 200 words) for paper presentations (30 minutes including time for questions) and poster presentations. Abstracts should be submitted to Stephen Cowley (s.j.cowley@herts.ac.uk) or Frédéric Vallée-Tourangeau (f.vallee-tourangeau@kingston.ac.uk) by Friday 21 May 2010.

Registration for the symposium is free, but you need to register by sending an email to Frédéric Vallée-Tourangeau (f.vallee-tourangeau@kingston.ac.uk) by 21 May 2010 to confirm your attendance.

Confirmed Speakers

Chris Baber (University of Birmingham)

Linden Ball (Lancaster University)

Jean-François Bonnefon (Université de Toulouse 2 - Le Mirail, CNRS)

Stephen Cowley (University of Hertfordshire)

Evie Fioratou (University of Aberdeen)

David Kirsh (University of California, San Diego)

Ken Gilhooly (University of Hertfordshire)

Frédéric Vallée-Tourangeau (Kingston University)



<http://fass.kingston.ac.uk/research/psychology/>



<http://www.psy.herts.ac.uk/dlg/>