

Call for papers Workshop TRACE 2018, 5th Edition

« Normativity in Situated and Embodied Cognition »

This annual workshop aims to bring together participants from different scientific disciplines and foster an interdisciplinary discussion about embodied and situated approaches to cognition in the broad sense of the term, including action and perception. This year, we will discuss the issue of **normativity** lying at the core of any situated and embodied definition of cognition.

It has long been recognized in cognitive science that agents - artificial ones as well as living organisms - cannot be understood outside of their *embodied* and *situated* nature, and that they should be studied as some philosophers have referred to as 'being in the world'. Despite differing views, many contemporary approaches to cognition and perception (such as ecological psychology, sensorimotor theory, enactivism and extended mind) agree on this matter. Yet with this joint agreement come other subjects to dispute, with among others the issue of *normativity*, i.e. the *origin*, *diversity* and *distribution* of the norms regulating the interactions between agents and their environments.

Through approaching normativity, we wish to go further than the idea of an agent being always related to its environment and vice versa; we aim to generate in-depth discussions on how to *measure*, *observe* and *model* concretely the co-constitutive spatio-temporalities of these norms, from attentional saliences to biosocial forces that continuously inform and shape both agents and their surroundings. To this end we hence seek to raise fundamental questions *methodologically* and *theoretically*.

For instance, in *what ways* do agents constitute their own world? To what extent is it constituted *by others*? How does it show through within the study of cognition in laboratory and in 'the wild'? What are the cognitive, perceptual and behavioural conditions that guarantee the relative unity of 'a world'? Should we think of the environment primarily as a set of features, a system of processes or a semi-closed network of activities? In which circumstances should we think of autonomy as the ability to adapt to environmental changes or as the ability to produce them? Is meaning derived solely from the satisfaction of an agent's internal constraints? What makes a norm overarches an agent's behaviour or a whole situation? In which conditions can normative pluralism lead to cognitive dissonance? Is normative pluralism compatible with a monist definition of norms or should multiple kinds of norms be analytically distinguished (biological, psychological, social or cultural, etc.)?

These are some of the topics we will address and discuss during *TRACE*. This workshop has always been an interdisciplinary event and this fifth edition intends to be in line with this position. We thus welcome contributions from philosophy, psychology, neuropsychology, AI and robotics, *as well as* anthropology, linguistics, ethology, archaeology, and more broadly from any discipline as long as there is a pronounced interest for the rigorous study of cognition, action and perception, whether through experiment, design or observation. We especially encourage young researchers (Post-doctoral, PhD and Master students) to submit a proposal (see modalities below).

Proposals

We strongly encourage master students, PhD students and post-doctoral researchers from all scientific disciplines to submit a proposal. **Abstracts should not exceed 500 words.** In addition to oral presentations, we also welcome poster proposals. The abstracts, presentations and posters will be in English (some accommodations may be found for French-speaking participants).

All proposals (.doc, .odt or .pdf) must be sent by e-mail to workshopTRACE2018@gmail.com. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any question. **The deadline for abstract submission is May 1st, 2018.** Notification of acceptance/rejection will be sent on May 15th, 2018.

Fees

The entrance to the workshop is free.

Venue

The event will be hosted in Brussels, Belgium, at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Site Solbosch). As part of the workshop, a walking dinner will be hosted at Place Flagey on the 27th, in the completely renovated, modern and convivial restaurant of the ULB-La Cambre Faculty of Architecture. The dinner has become a hallmark of the workshop TRACE, as it is the perfect opportunity to both relax and continue stimulating discussions.

Accommodations

Unlike its British and French counterparts, Belgium's capital is a relatively affordable city. If you have trouble finding a place, please do not hesitate to contact us for assistance.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Brussels!

Scientific Committee

Prof. David Berliner (Anthropology, Université Libre de Bruxelles)
Dr. Thibaut Brouillet (Cognitive Psychology, Université Paris Nanterre)
Dr. Alexandre Couттé (Cognitive Psychology, Université Paris Nanterre)
Dr. Loic Heurley (Cognitive Psychology, Université Paris Nanterre)

Organizing Committee

Prof. David Berliner (Anthropology, Université Libre de Bruxelles)
Prof. Benjamin Rubbers (Anthropology, Université de Liège)
Dr. Thomas Camus (Cognitive Psychology, Université Paul Valéry)
Dr. Romàn Josa (Cognitive Psychology, Université Paul Valéry)
Corentin Chanet (Anthropology, Université Libre de Bruxelles)
David Eubelen (Anthropology, Université Libre de Bruxelles)
Thomas Gennen (Anthropology, Université Libre de Bruxelles)

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