

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2016/17

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Conference reports



2017 Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development

On January 5-7, the Central European University hosted their 7th annual conference on cognitive development in Budapest. The conference covered a broad variety of topics, ranging from “a cross-linguistic perspective on mental verbs and false-belief development” to “abstract knowledge in an insect brain”. It was my third time attending this conference and – as in previous years – I found both the scientific program and the exchange with researchers from different fields stimulating.

Two of the conference's highlights were the keynote lectures by Tania Singer and Alison Gopnik. Tania Singer in particular captivated her audience by presenting neuroscientific evidence that mental training might be more than just another life style trend. The conference also featured three 2-hour-long poster sessions, where coffee and delicious snacks were provided at the same time. This encouraged everybody to stick around and enabled poster presenters to discuss their research in detail and exchange ideas in a nice atmosphere.

The organizers did an excellent job in making this a productive and smooth-running conference, even in the face of multiple cancelled contributions and a comprehensive power failure in the lecture hall during one afternoon session on the last day. Everybody on the team stayed positive and helpful at all times and thereby contributed greatly to the relaxed atmosphere.

Lisa Horn, Postdoctoral Researcher
Department of Cognitive Biology
University of Vienna, Austria



I attended the BCCCD for the second time and overall it was a very enriching experience. Researchers from all over the world witnessed three days of high-level presentations about cognitive science, focusing in particular on aspects related to the development of social cognition. The diversity of the program made it easy to maintain our attention and motivation during the whole course of the conference. Organized by topics, it combined lectures from renowned speakers with poster, symposium and paper sessions. After each presentation there was always time to make questions to the speaker.

Apart from the valuable scientific program, the BCCCD is also a great conference for socializing and connecting with others. Due to the numerous social events, from the coffee breaks to the gala dinner, every day we had the opportunity to talk with other researchers sharing similar interests. The great balance between the number of attendees, small enough for socializing with others and big enough for having an excellent

quantity and quality of contents, makes the BCCCD a productive and enjoyable conference for those who work on cognitive development.

Marc Colomer, PhD student
Center For Brain and Cognition
Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

For more photos, see the conference gallery at the Facebook page of the [Cognitive Development Center at CEU](#)

PWCDP 2016 Cognitive and developmental psychology workshop Pécs, Hungary



The 2nd Pécs Workshop on Cognitive and Developmental Psychology (PWCDP) was held in November 2016 in Pécs, Hungary. The conference is organized every year, and in each year, it focuses on different topics of Cognitive or Developmental psychology. This year's workshop was dedicated to social cognition, with keynote speakers such as Ian Apperly, Gergely Csibra, Ildikó Király, Gyöngyi Kökönyei and Natalie Sebanz. Researchers and students from all over the country discussed their research, exchanged ideas in a friendly atmosphere. And enjoyed a special dinner with wine-tasting in a small nearby town, Villány. The conference was very successful and will take place at the same quarter of year in 2017. Hope to meet you there!

András N. Zsidó
University of Pécs, Hungary

Mercator Research Group Symposium – What is Episodic Memory? Perspectives from Philosophy, Psychology and Neuroscience



On November 29-30, 2016 the closing symposium of the Mercator Research Group on the 'Structure of Memory' was held at Ruhr-Universität Bochum in Germany. The research group investigates episodic and semantic memory processes and their relation to other cognitive functions". Since the funding period for the research group had officially ended in 2016, the symposium was intended as an official finale for its activities.

Accordingly, the list of invited speakers was studded with interesting names mostly from philosophy and neuroscience.

The Ruhr-Universität with its industrial-style architecture enveloped in a delightful, cold and bright atmosphere by the sunny winter weather sets a great scene for a program that was quite unconventionally split between disciplines. On the one hand, the program included some of the arguably most influential authors in an emergent field of 'philosophy of memory', as Kirk Michaelian, Sven Berneker, Christoph Hoerl and Markus Werning. Thanks in part to these authors there is now a lively literature debating the meaning of empirical findings in the cognitive and neural sciences for our conceptual understanding of memory.

My own background is in philosophy and cognitive psychology. It was therefore especially interesting for me to see these philosophical perspective paired with those of empirical and computational neuroscientists. The highlight of the symposium for me was to hear Werning's perspective on what we should take memory traces to be paired with Cheng's computational analysis of the hippocampus. All in all the symposium served as an excellent closing to the Mercator Research Group and assured me that we still have much interesting research to look forward to from its contributors.

Johannes Mahr, PhD student
Department of Cognitive Science
Central European University, Budapest

Upcoming CECOG event



IX. Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science Intuitive Sociologists: Representing Social Relations and Social Categories

25-28 May 2017, Dubrovnik, Croatia

Abstract Submission is still open until 20th February 2017!

Members of the Central European Cognitive Science Association can register at a reduced fee.

It is our pleasure to invite you to the **IX. Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science Intuitive Sociologists: Representing Social Relations and Social Categories**. The conference will take place on **25-28 May, 2017**, in the Center for Advanced Studies of Dubrovnik, Croatia, located by the Adriatic sea at the foot of the old city of Dubrovnik (Croatia), a UNESCO world heritage site.

Our **keynote speakers** include:



Gil Diesendruck (Bar-Ilan University)

The motivational roots of social categorization:
Evidence from infants



Alan Fiske (University of California, Los Angeles)

The Four Fundamental Forms of Social Relationships



David Pietraszewski (Max-Planck-Institute for Human Development)

Applying an evolutionary and computational approach to social categorization:
Examples from race, accent, and social groups.



Nichola Raihani (University College London)

The importance of reputation in the evolution of cooperation and punishment



Olivier Mascaro (CNRS)

Cognitive mechanisms for the representation of social structures



Lotte Thomsen (University of Oslo)

Core Cognition of Relational Forms

Conference chairs: Kata Oláh, Nazlı Altınok and Ildikó Király

Summer Schools

Trieste Encounters in Cognitive Sciences (TEX):

Timing and Temporal Cognition

The Trieste Encounters on Cognitive Science (TEX) are a yearly summer initiative by SISSA aiming at bringing together scientists from all over the world at all levels of their careers to enjoy science, but also sunshine, food & wine.

This year's edition focuses on **time in the brain**. By looking at time as percept but also as mechanism for perception, TEX 2017 will offer a broad and multifaceted view on the neuroscience of time. To this purpose we gather scientists who are studying time in the brain from different perspectives (e.g. how time shapes our perception, how information is processed over time, how time is perceived or misperceived) and using distinct methodological approaches (from animal electrophysiology to human neuroimaging, from computational modelling to psychophysics).



Confirmed speakers:

Marco Cicchini (Pisa, Italy), Ayelet Landau (Jerusalem, Israel), Stefano Panzeri (Trento, Italy), Warrick Roseboom (Sussex, UK), Marshall Shuler (Baltimore, USA), Virginie van Wassenhove (Paris, France), Hedderik van Rijn (Groningen, Netherlands).

TEX 2017 is a summer school for PhD students and Post-Docs. Contributions to TEX2017 are welcome on any issue related to time (i.e., temporal cognition, time processing, time perception).

Date and location: Monday June 12 - Friday June 16 2017, SISSA main campus, Trieste, Italy

Abstract submission deadline: 31 March 2017

More information: <https://indico.sissa.it/event/13/>

Aegina Summer School 2017

The Social Brain: Embodiment and Culture

We invite applications from PhD students, post-doc and early-career researchers to attend the Summer School on “The Social Brain: Embodiment and Culture” jointly organized by the Institute of Philosophy & the Warburg Institute at the University of London, Royal Holloway, and the Berlin School of Mind and Brain. This Summer School builds upon the success of the previous summer schools on “Embodied Intersubjectivity” (2013), “Shared Experiences” (2014), “The Social self” (2015), “Social Cognition” (2016).



At this year’s summer school, we would like to examine **how biological and cultural factors interact (or not) to shape social cognition**, defined as the capacity to understand and engage in intentional relations with others. The programme will give us a chance to review the latest research on social cognition carried on in different fields, from developmental psychology, cognitive neuroscience, clinical psychology, primatology, anthropology and philosophy.

Confirmed speakers:

Bahador Bahrami (London, UK), Tim Bayne (Melbourne, Australia), Axel Cleeremans (Bruxelles, Belgium), Gergely Csibra (Budapest, Hungary), Ophelia Deroy (Munich, Germany & London, UK), Beatrice de Gelder (Maastricht, Netherlands), Isabel Dziobek (Berlin, Germany), David Freedberg (London, UK & New York, USA), Sarah Garfinkel (Sussex, UK), Julie Grezes (Paris, France), Katerina Fotopoulou (London, UK), Karin Roelofs (Nijmegen, Netherlands), Leo Schilbach (Munich, Germany), Katie Slocombe (York, UK), Barry Smith (London, UK), Dan Sperber (Budapest, Hungary & Paris, France), Manos Tsakiris (London, UK)

Date and location: Sunday 25th June - Saturday 1st July 2017, Hotel Apollo, Aegina, Greece

Application deadline: 27th February 2017

More information: <http://philosophy.sas.ac.uk/AeginaSummerSchool2017>

CEU Summer University 2017

Creative Cognition: Evolutions, Processes, Applications

This interdisciplinary course will address the **human ability to find creative solutions to new problems**, a capacity that has allowed us to overcome obstacles in problem solving that are insurmountable to other species. Creative problem solving is therefore viewed as a crucial cognitive component in enabling the rapid progression of human culture.

The course will comprise lectures and discussions in the mornings. The afternoons will be filled with activities exercising creative thinking that include joint work on a sketch for a research proposal, artist workshops, and opportunities for students to present their own research. Lectures and discussions will address 1) evolutionary and cognitive theories of scientific discovery, 2) psychological accounts of cognitive insight, 3) research on sleep and memory consolidation in creative problem solving, 4) the role of brain networks and social networks for creative problem solving, and 5) research on joint improvisation and other forms of social interactions that involve exploration of joint action spaces.

Confirmed speakers:

Sarah Beck (Birmingham, UK), Ati Citron (Haifa, Israel), John Gruzelier (London, UK), Douglas Kell (Manchester, UK), Maria Kronfeldner (Budapest, Hungary), Lior Noy (Rehovot, Israel), Michael Öllinger (Munich, Germany), Alison Pease (Dundee, UK), Natalie Sebanz (Budapest, Hungary), Robert Stickgold

(Boston, USA), Balazs Vedres (Budapest, Hungary), Rolf Verleger (Lübeck, Germany), Rick Welch (Baltimore, USA)

Date and location: Monday 3rd July - Friday 7th July 2017, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

Application deadline: 14th February 2017

More information: <https://summeruniversity.ceu.edu/cognition-2017>

Upcoming conferences

18th European Conference on Developmental Psychology (ECDP2017)

Utrecht, The Netherlands (29 August - 1 Sept 2017)
Abstract submission deadline: 13 Feb 2017
<http://www.ecdp2017.nl/>

Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour: Easter Conference (ASAB 2017)

Liverpool, UK (5 - 7 April 2017)
Abstract submission deadline: 1 March 2017
<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/mbe/page51/ASAB2017.html>

PCLA Conference 2017 : Cognitive Linguistics in the year 2017

Rzeszów, Poland (20-23 September 2017)
Abstract submission deadline: 1 March 2017
http://www.ptjk2017.ur.edu.pl/index_en.html

NeuroIS 2017 Gmunden Retreat

Gmunden, Austria
Submission deadline: 20 March 2017
<http://www.neurois.org/index.php>

13th International Conference for Cognitive Neuroscience (ICON)

Amsterdam, Netherland (5-8 August 2017)
Poster submission deadline: 31 March 2017
<http://www.icon2017.org/>

Communication, reasoning, and social epistemology – Berlin School of Mind and Brain

Berlin, Germany (10-11 July 2017)
Poster submission deadline: 1 April 2017
<http://www.mind-and-brain.de/postdoctoral-program/scientific-events/communication-reasoning-and-social-epistemology/>

MAICS 2017: The 28th Modern Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science Conference

Fort Wayne, IN, USA (28-29 April 2017)
Abstract submission deadline: 15 February 2017
<http://users.ipfw.edu/licatoj/maics/>

Behaviour 2017: 35th International Ethological Conference

Estoril, Portugal (30 July - 4 August 2017)
Abstract submission deadline: 28 April 2017
<http://behaviour2017.org/>

20th European Society for Cognitive Psychology Conference (ESCOP 2017)

Potsdam, Germany (3 - 6 Sept 2017)
<http://cognitive-psychology.eu/escop17/index.html>

Rovereto Workshop on Concepts, Actions and Objects

Rovereto, Italy (4 – 7 May 2017)
Abstract submission deadline: 14 March 2017
<http://events.unitn.it/en/cimec-caos2017>

About CECOG: The Central European Cognitive Science Association (CECOG) is a civil association promoting cooperation in the field of cognitive science in Central Europe. The association was initiated at a meeting in August 2008 by the Budapest University of Technology and Economics and the University of Zagreb by Melita Kovacevic, Ilona Kovács, and Csaba Pléh. President: Gergely Csibra; managing organizers and local hosts of the DuCog series: Nevena Padovan and Paula Fischer; managing secretary of the association: Paula Fischer.

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Previous newsletters are available on our website – <http://cecog.eu/>