



CHI

A WEEK OF INTERACTIVITY

**7 DAYS ON
INTERACTIVITY
LANGUAGE AND
COGNITION**

HOSTED BY THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN INTERACTIVITY

WELCOME TO A WEEK OF INTERACTIVITY

Dear Reader,

The Centre for Human Interactivity was established in the fall of 2012. Hence, the “Week of Interactivity” is our 3 years birthday celebration, and we’re happy to welcome you to join the birthday party!

Human interactivity is a term for the intersection of interaction and cognition – or rather: where scholars traditionally distinguish between the two, we maintain that in the human ecology, there is no such distinction. Human cognition emerges when we interact with our environment and with other human beings, and interaction is a crucial form of human cognizing.

At the Week of Interactivity some of the world’s most prominent scholars in the areas of cognitive science and human interaction join us to celebrate the richness and manifoldness of the fascinating phenomenon of interactivity.

We’re happy to welcome Tony Chemero (University of Cincinnati) and Michael L. Anderson (University of Maryland) who are amongst the main proponents of the Radical Embodied Cognitive Science that has emerged over the past 10-15 years. Likewise, we look forward to welcoming Charles Goodwin (UCLA) and Per Linell (Gothenburg University) who instigated what may be similarly revolutionary changes in the study of human interaction.

So in these eight days in September, you’ll meet, not only these four prominent researchers, but also a host of distinguished scholars in their respective fields, along with representatives of the Centre for Human Interactivity. We look forward to greeting you in Odense, Denmark!

Sune Vork Steffensen
Director
Centre for Human Interactivity

RADICAL EMBODIED COGNITIVE SCIENCE, NEURAL REUSE, AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LANGUAGE SCIENCES

Ph.D. course organised by The Doctoral Programme in Language and Communication, the Graduate School at the Faculty of Humanities

Feat. Tony Chemero and Mike L. Anderson

This Ph.D. course raises the questions: how do the brain, the body, the world, and language interact in the complexities of human life? And what would answers to this question imply for the language sciences (including syntax, pragmatics, semantics, interaction analysis, etc.)?

This course offers an introduction to Embodied Cognitive Science (ECS) which offers a framework for answering these questions. We begin with a historical overview of ECS. Many of you may have already heard of an important precursor to ECS, namely the work by James Gibson on the ecological bases of vision which included the well-known and often (mis)used notion of 'affordances'. In the overview, we also position ECS with respect to competing frameworks, most notably Cognitive and Evolutionary Psychology respectively. A fundamental contrast with these approaches is ECS's proposal that behavior, bodily structure, and environmental resources are deeply implicated in an adequate explanation of cognition. Evidence will be presented which supports this proposal including, in particular, recent findings in neuroscience. Finally, we explore what's radical about Radical Embodied Cognitive Science and attempt to draw out its consequences for the study of language and social interaction.

The course will contain lectures, open discussions and (embodied) demonstrations. There will be readings and on the bases of these, participants are required to submit questions and suggest topics of particular interest for discussion. Participants are also encouraged to submit possible empirical cases from their PhD projects which might fruitfully be explored from an ECS perspective.

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

[http://www.sdu.dk/en/Forskning/PhD/Phd_skoler/Phd_humaniora/Forskerudd-,d-,programmer/FSK/Activities/ES15_RadicalEmbodiedCognitiveScience](http://www.sdu.dk/en/Forskning/PhD/Phd_skoler/Phd_humaniora/Forskerudd-d-,d-programmer/FSK/Activities/ES15_RadicalEmbodiedCognitiveScience)

INTERACTIVITY COGNITION AND THE EMBRAINED BODY

Centre for Human Interactivity
3rd Annual Symposium 2015
A joint CHIAS III & DTS VII symposium

Keynote speakers:
Tony Chemero
Michael L. Anderson

FINDING A SPACE FOR THE BRAIN?

The main concern of the symposium can be readily stated: Given an embrained body that does interactivity, what do we need (the concept of) cognition for? Today, no-one disputes that the embrained body plays a crucial role, not just in action and perception, but also in the so-called higher cognitive functions. Action and perception can thus be traced to human *interactivity*, a term introduced to the community by David Kirsh who used it in the paradigm of Human-Computer Interaction. Since then, it has been shown to be crucial, not only to problem-solving, but also to face-to-face language activity. In this setting, interactivity is redefined as “sense-saturated coordination that contributes to human action.” Taking a starting point in interactivity and the sense-saturated nature of human coordination obliges one to look beyond the situated body. One needs to rethink the brain’s role in how organization, sociality, and language transforms the (extended) human ecology.

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS?

In radical embodied cognitive science, one accords no explanatory role to representations. On this view, the embrained body and interactivity are central to any definition of cognition. The problems to be addressed are thus: (1) what else, if anything, is required to understand complex, adaptive and social human behaviour? (2) What does this view imply for the definition and investigation of the embrained body’s contribution to interactivity?

CHIAS III & DTS VII

The Centre for Human Interactivity (CHI) is a research centre at the University of Southern Denmark. It is committed to the study of human languaging and cognition as ecological phenomena that require a naturalised description and explanation. Since its inauguration in 2012, the centre has held two CHIAS symposia, and the 2015 event is the third in the series. The series of Distributed Thinking Symposia (DTS) has been held since 2008. The series has been hosted by the University of Hertfordshire, Kingston University, and Goldsmiths College. DTS VII is the first of the series to take place outside of the UK, and both CHI and the DTS organisers are proud to announce this joint symposium.

September 21, 2015, Romeo Meeting Room

HELPING OTHERS IN INTERACTION

Ph.D. course organised by The Doctoral Programme in Language and Communication, The Graduate School at the Faculty of Humanities *Feat. Charles Goodwin and Per Linell*

This one-day seminar will be lead by Charles Goodwin and Per Linell who will present introductory perspectives on the topic and lead discussions and analysis sessions with participants. The topic should be understood rather broadly, including interaction work ranging from instruction to simply assisting others along an activity's trajectory. Participants from areas such as First and Second Language Acquisition, Speech and Language Therapy, Sociolinguistics, Pragmatics, Interaction Design, Human-Robot Interaction with an interest in interaction analysis should find the seminar relevant. There will be a required reading list and participants will be required to present questions, topics for discussion or small fragments data for analysis sessions.

Limited number of participants!

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

http://www.sdu.dk/Forskning/PhD/Phd_skoler/Phd_humaniora/alle_kurser#IGS

THE DISTRIBUTED, DIALOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL APPROACH(ES) TO HUMAN INTERACTION

Research seminar

Feat. Charles Goodwin, Per Linell, Stephen Cowley, Sune Vork Steffensen and Thomas Wiben Jensen

Human interaction is a complex achievement that, on the one hand, requires that all participants contribute to the dialogue, and, on the other, opens up a space for the self-organising dynamics of interaction. For the last half a century or so, Conversation Analysis has established a powerful research program that has brought forth a multitude of insights into how participants establish an interactional order by orienting to the micro-sociological norms that regulate conversation. However, other dynamics also come into play when human beings interact: people weave their interaction together with their individual and shared pasts, they aim to perform extra-semiotic actions towards their ecological surroundings, and they use symbolic resources and other agents to engage in adaptive, flexible behaviour.

This seminar brings together some of the voices that make up the scientific community that study these phenomena. Charles Goodwin (UCLA) has studied action in a plenitude of social domains and professions, and he's arguably the world's leading scholar in the area of interaction studies. Per Linell (Gothenburg University) has for the past three decades developed a dialogical approach to human interaction – an approach which, building on Bakhtin's work, is one of the theoretically most innovative in the field. Stephen Cowley, Sune Vork Steffensen and Thomas Wiben Jensen (University of Southern Denmark) are all proponents of a distributed approach to language, interaction and cognition – a recent theoretical development that emphasises interactivity and the ecological embeddedness of action and co-action.

The purpose of the seminar is to explore the synergies that for the past decade to quite an extent have contributed to the approaches converging. How can they add to each other? Are there any major disagreements? Any minor disagreements? And how do they contribute to the future investigation of human interaction?

September 23, 2015: Department of Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology Seminar Room

THE COGNITIVE ECOLOGY OF HUMAN ERRORS IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE: AN INTERACTIVITY-BASED APPROACH

Ph.D. Defence

Sarah Bro Pedersen

Sarah Bro Pedersen defends her thesis on interactivity and human errors in emergency medicine. Her starting point is in Distributed Language and Cognition and in Ecological Psychology, and the main challenge addressed by the thesis is to account for how multiple timescales affect local cognition, both at a theoretical and at a practical level.

The dissertation combines an innovative theoretical exposition and detailed analyses of human interactivity in the emergency department.

The defence presents both Sarah's account of her work, and a dialogue between Sarah and the committee, which consists of Charles Goodwin (UCLA), Per Linell (Gothenburg University) and Stephen Cowley (University of Southern Denmark).

A WEEK OF INTERACTIVITY FIVE EVENTS

15-16 September

Radical Embodied Cognitive Science, Neural Reuse, and their implications for the language sciences

Ph.D. course with Tony Chemero and Mike Anderson

15 September: Romeo Meeting Room

16 September: O 97

17-18 September

CHIAS III – Interactivity, Cognition and the Embodied Body

17 September: O 96

18 September: O 77

21 September

Helping others in interaction

Ph.D. course with Chuck Goodwin and Per Linell

Room: Romeo Meeting Room

22 September

The Distributed, Dialogical, and Ecological Approach(es) to Human Interaction.

Research Seminar with Charles Goodwin, Per Linell, Stephen Cowley, Sune Vork Steffensen and Thomas Wiben Jensen

9.00 – 12.00: U148

13.00 – 16.00: U151

23 September

The Cognitive Ecology of Human Errors in Emergency Medicine: an interactivity-based approach

Ph.D. defense with Sarah Bro Pedersen

Room: Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Seminar Room

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.sdu.dk/CHI

www.facebook.com/centhumint