



CHI

Centre for Human Interactivity 2nd Annual Symposium 2015

March 19th to 20th

University of Southern Denmark (Odense)
Room 077

SIMPLEXITY: IMPLICATIONS FOR LANGUAGE

ALAIN BERTHOZ • DIDIER BOTTINEAU

LANGUAGE: BIOGENIC AND/OR ANTROPHOGENIC?

Language scholars have for decades and centuries relied on an anthropogenic approach to language, for instance by taking a symbolic or a speaker's perspective. In contrast, a biogenic view traces language to metabolism and its simplex properties. From an anthropogenic viewpoint, we focus on the complexity of language; from a biogenic one, we turn to its simplicity. *Where do you stand?*

THE INTERACTIVITY HYPOTHESIS

The Centre for Human Interactivity views language as a product of human biology and (extended) ecology – it arises from a sense-saturated history of doing things together. Pursuing this hypothesis, we link cognitive science with the humanities – language becomes a biogenic system in an anthropogenic world. At CHIASII, our eminent guests Alain Berthoz and Didier Bottineau will trace linguistic symbols back to metabolism. Then, having done so they will address both how metabolism exploits symbols and, by extension, how language and affect contribute to coordination, action/perception and information.

WHAT TO DO

If you would like to be part of this, please let Stephen Cowley know before 1 March 2015. There may be opportunities for interested parties to offer papers and, if you are interested in so doing, you should send him an abstract of 300 words. cowley@sdu.dk.

WHAT IS SIMPLEXITY?

Simplexity is biology's answer to sustaining life in a changing universe. Once organisms evolved, nature developed a repertoire of simple tricks that reappear in cell, brains, behavior and – we suggest – in living language. These include: (a) Inhibition; (b) detouring; and (c) action-perception geared information.

FORMAT

Discussions at CHIAS II will target a paper by Alain Berthoz and Didier Bottineau. Their view of its simplex roots will open up discussion around a distributed perspective that traces language to, not verbal patterns, but human coordination, bodies and semiotic skills. By so doing, its main aim is to open up conversations. While these may involve many topics, we expect other speakers to address how, in its various time-scales, language derives from biology as people enact practices that sustain cultural ecosystems and the wider ecology.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, contact Stephen Cowley at cowley@sdu.dk.

You can also look at either the CHI web site at sdu.dk/CHI or visit our facebook page: www.facebook.com/centhumint