



**Centre for Human Interactivity**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium 2015**  
**A joint CHIAS III & DTS VII symposium**

September 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>  
University of Southern Denmark (Odense)  
Rooms 096 and 077

# INTERACTIVITY COGNITION AND THE EMBRAINED BODY

**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.

## CARE TO JOIN?

To be part of the event, please register by sending an e-mail to [CHI@sdu.dk](mailto:CHI@sdu.dk) no later than 10 September 2015.

Further information on speakers, registration, venue, accommodation, and practicalities will be available on [sdu.dk/CHI](http://sdu.dk/CHI).

## SPEAKERS

- Keynote: Mike Anderson
- Keynote: Tony Chemero
- Stephen Cowley and Davide Secchi
- Fred Vallée-Tourangeau and Sune V. Steffensen
- Charles Lassiter
- Chris Baber
- Mark Bishop
- Jasper van den Herik
- Sabrina Golonka and Andrew Wilson
- Erin Beatty
- Slawek Nasuto
- Susan Samata
- Paul March
- Katherine Hrisonopulo

## PH.D.-COURSE

On September 15-16 2015, our distinguished guests, Tony Chemero and Mike Anderson, will be giving a Ph.D.-course entitled *Radical Embodied Cognitive Science, Neural Reuse, and their implications for the language sciences*.

Learn more about the course here:

[http://www.sdu.dk/Forskning/PhD/Phd\\_skoler/Phd\\_hu-maniora/Forskerudd,-d-,programmer/FSK/Activities/ES15\\_RadicalEmbodiedCognitiveScience](http://www.sdu.dk/Forskning/PhD/Phd_skoler/Phd_hu-maniora/Forskerudd,-d-,programmer/FSK/Activities/ES15_RadicalEmbodiedCognitiveScience)