



The Active Self

SPP funded by DFG

Program 2021 Summer School

July 27th- July 29th

To attend the meeting please use the following zoom invitation link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86704324952?pwd=ZG1LdDJvc2ZWVXhIQzJ6TIFXSWJIUT09>

Password: 453097

For any urgent questions:

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Tuesday, July, 27th, 2021, 9:00 am- 13:30 pm

09:00 Subject: *Attribution of intentional agency to robots – from the human perspective*

Talk by Prof. Agnieszka Wykowska, Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia (IIT)

09:45 Discussion

10:00 Subject: *Space and Body Representation from a Robotics Perspective*

Talk by Giorgio Metta, Scientific Director of the Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia (IIT)

10:45 Discussion

11:15 Break

11:30 Workshop: Eye contact within embodied experimental settings: from cognitive neuroscience to robotics.

Organized by: Francesca Ciardo, Kyveli Kompatsiari, Maria Lombardi, Elisa Maiettini, Davide De Tommaso (IIT).

Eye contact is a crucial communicative signal in social interaction. So far the effect of eye contact on cognition has been investigated using pictures depicting straight gaze, lacking in agency. Humanoid robots can be a perfect tool to overcome the limitation of screen-based paradigms. Thanks to their embodied nature they ensure contingent eye contact, at the same time, as artificial agents that can be programmed, calling for high experimental control. The workshop aims to demonstrate how an interdisciplinary approach that combines cognitive neuroscience with robotics can help researchers to overcome the challenges of embodied experimental settings. The first part of the workshop focuses on the decision-making process needed to translate a screen-based paradigm into an embodied experimental setup. The second part of the workshop instead is dedicated to how to endow the robot with the social cue of eye contact that characterizes an effective human-human interaction. Inspired by the behaviour of human beings, the aim is to develop algorithms that allow experiencing the robot as a social agent. In the context of the workshop, the focus is on how to train a learning architecture making the humanoid robot iCub able to detect eye contact events while interacting with the human partner.

13:30 End

Recommended reading for this day:

Bossi, F., Willemse, C., Cavazza, J., Marchesi, S., Murino, V. & Wykowska, A. (2020). The human brain reveals resting state activity patterns that are predictive of biases in attitudes toward robots. *Science Robotics*, 5, (46).

Ciardo, F., Beyer, F., De Tommaso, D., & Wykowska, A. (2020). Attribution of Intentional agency towards Robots Reduces One's Own Sense of agency. *Cognition* 194.

Marchesi, S., Ghiglino, D., Ciardo, F., Perez-Osorio, J., Baykara, E. & Wykowska, A. (2019). Do we adopt the intentional stance toward humanoid robots?. *Frontiers in psychology*, 10, 450.

Wednesday, July, 28th, 2021, 9:00 am- 12:00 pm

09:00 The Emerging Sense of Agency in Infancy

Talk by Dr. Lorijn Zaadnoordijk, Trinity College Dublin

The emergence of a sense of agency – the experience that one can cause effects with their actions – is a crucial milestone in early cognitive development. It allows infants to learn about the world and their role in it in ways that would not have been possible otherwise. Developmental science has taken inspiration from adult research on the sense of agency to test the existence of this experience in early infancy via sensorimotor contingencies. Although young infants have been shown to detect sensorimotor contingencies, an important starting point, we have argued that this does not imply the presence of a sense of agency. In this talk, I will present theoretical work and empirical findings from recent studies on the sense of agency in infancy.

10:00 Discussion

10:15 Break

10:30 Workshop: Testing "The Active Self" Online

Organized by Dr. Lorijn Zaadnoordijk, Trinity College Dublin

Conducting research online has been gaining traction in the last decade. It allows researchers to test participants all across the world, which is beneficial when one wants to get large sample sizes, test rare populations, or compare across cultures. The last 1.5 years have provided an additional reason to test online: avoiding risk of infection. With a new method, however, always also come limitations that need to be considered. In this workshop, we will explore the possibilities of testing aspects of the self online in various populations.

12:00 End

Please watch this video before the talk:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cxxGNBfQAu30oX7W13nqleYyxEQ14Xb/view>

Thursday, July, 29th, 2021, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

I want it all! How to find a suitable career and balance it with family plans

Approaching the finishing line of a doctoral degree, many scientists struggle: How to go on? Do I want to pursue a career in academia and aspire to become a professor? However, permanent positions are scarce and the competition is tough, so, should I go and rather strive for a career outside university? And what about my personal plans? Will I be able to have both, an (academic) career and children? But how can I manage this – in real life? Especially female young scientists face doubts when pondering these questions and hesitate to respond with an enthusiastic “Yes! I want it all!” to all these questions.

Being a post-doctoral researcher in psychology who aims to become a professor and also a mother of three children myself, I want to give you some insights into my answers to all these questions and also into the different approaches you can take when figuring out your individual answers.

9:00 Part I: Should I Stay Or Should I Go?

By Dr. Carina G. Giesen, Universität Jena

When I started my PhD in psychology, I was sure of three things: First, I was happy that I gained some more years before I truly had to decide on what to do “as a real job”. Second, I knew that I never wanted to become a psychotherapist. Third, I had absolutely no idea what profession I’d like to strive for. If these thoughts are familiar to you, too, then attending this seminar might be a worthwhile endeavour. In the first part of the seminar, I will show you different strategies to find out whether a career in academia is the right thing for you. To this end, we will engage in interactive tasks to determine required skills for such a career. Furthermore, I will show you self-reflection tasks which enable you to uncover your future dreams, personal interests and professional abilities to create our own profile of competencies. We will also discuss strategies to find out more about prospective jobs outside university.

10:30 Part II: I want it all!

By Dr. Carina G. Giesen, Universität Jena

Many female scientists feel their potential for a career in academia and research, but also wish to start a family and have children. But: Is it possible to balance career and family plans? Especially for women? – We all know that the answer to these questions should be “Yes! Sure!” – but no one tells us how to actually do it, i.e., how to accomplish such a balance. Is there a right time to become pregnant? Can I pursue an academic career on a part-time basis? How can I invest in my career while also being a mother? In the second part of this seminar, I want to give you insight into my personal life to show you some of my individual solutions to achieve such a balance between my professional career and my family. I will give you some guiding principles on (re-)structuring, prioritising, and delegating your work and family tasks. We will discuss potential pitfalls and drawbacks, but also new perspectives, gains and opportunities. We will also engage in interactive tasks to uncover different perspectives between males and females when contemplating these topics, and how to make your partner a real partner when striving for a balance of career and family.

12:00 End