



**Universitat de les  
Illes Balears**  
Departament de Psicologia

## WORKSHOP “EMBODIYING COGNITION: TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED APPROACH?”

Palma de Mallorca (Spain), 14-16 december 2006 (provisional dates)

Since 1995, when *Mind as Motion* came out, non-classical alternatives in the Cognitive Sciences have proliferated. Embodied meaning, situated cognition, non-local connectionism, hybrid models, ecological perception, dynamicism, and so on, are “brand names” for different programmes trying to develop a, more or less radical, alternative to classical Cognitive Science. As a matter of fact, it has become, to some extent, trendy to accept that a final understanding of human intelligence will have to be embodied and embedded. However, it’s also true that this diversity of programmes and efforts has made it more difficult for a robust, mainstream alternative to develop. As Kuhn taught us, though, it is only when a new paradigm is ready that the old one will begin to be overcome. Therefore, it seems timely to ask (i) whether these different, non-orthodox, more or less embodied, approaches can converge into a new paradigm in the study of human cognition, (ii) what their common ground could be, and (iii) whether an agenda can be established in order to coordinate efforts and advance towards a common approach.

To this goal, we are planning an interdisciplinary workshop for next december, in Palma de Mallorca, where we are looking forward to joining a distinguished group of scholars, leaders in these different approaches. The idea is to ask them to share their different approaches, as well as provide a suitable environment to foster open debate and common understanding.

Questions from which to start are: what are the sensorimotor grounds of higher cognition; what kind of mental representations, if any, are still necessary as explanatory constructs; what is the nature of mental processes in the extended, social mind; how can executive functions operate without a central executive; how can mental chronology studies be understood from an embedded, time-constrained, point of view; what is the relevance of robotics as

simulation; what definite breakthroughs are required for a radical start; and is it possible to go beyond a correlational neuroscience?

The list of invited speakers include: L. Barsalou (Psychology, Emory), R. Beer (Cognitive Science, Case Western Reserve), L. Berkeley (Louisiana at Lafayette), M. Bickhard (Cognitive Science, Lehigh), A. Clark (Philosophy, Edinburgh), P. van Geert (Psychology, Groningen), P. Haselager (Cognitive Science, Nijmegen), G. Schöner (Bioinformatics, Bochum), P. Schnys (Psychology, Glasgow), N. Sharkey (Computer Science, Sheffield), J. Smeets (Human Movement Sciences, Vrije), C. Torras (Robotics, CSIC-UPC), M. Turvey (Psychology, Connecticut), M. de Vega (Psychology, La Laguna), L. Ward (Psychology, British Columbia), T. Ziemke (Robotics, Skövde)

It is anticipated that the papers will appear as a book. Arrangements are being made with Elsevier to publish it in its *Perspectives on Cognitive Science* series (Peter Slezak, editor).

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For information about Palma and the island of Mallorca:

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