

ABSTRACTS:

**Sofia Miguens (University of Porto) - “Is seeing judging? Radical contextualism and the problem of perception”**

There are radically divergent understandings of representation at play in philosophy and cognitive science and they make one approach in very different ways the question whether seeing is judging. Suffice it to consider that it is quite frequent, and basically non polemical, within cognitive science, to speak of perceivers’s subpersonal states, as well as of perceptual experiences, as *representations*, whereas from a philosophical viewpoint the question remains open as to whether such subpersonal states and experiences do indeed *represent* things as being a certain way, namely veridically or non-veridically. Many philosophers are more than happy to simply pick up from cognitive science the use of the term ‘representations’. This talk will center on two recent debates in the philosophy of perception which I hope will help bring forth some hidden questions the nature of representation poses. The first was a debate over perceptual psychology and disjunctivism and took place around 2005-2011 between a representationalist (Tyler Burge) and a disjunctivist (John McDowell). It concerns mostly what I will call Question 1: should one say of a perceivers’s subpersonal states that they are *representations*? A reference to D. Dennett’s proposal of a personal/subpersonal distinction will be introduced in this context. The second debate takes place between two disjunctivists (John McDowell and Charles Travis) and concerns the ‘Myth of the Given’. It concerns mostly what I will call Question 2: should one say of perceivers’ *perceptual experiences*, as opposed to his (or her) judgements, that they *represent things as being a certain way*? Both debates will help me bring forth questions regarding the nature of representation which I believe matter for understanding what radical contextualism’s bearing on the problem of perception might be.

**Michał Piekarski (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University) - "Erwin Straus’ phe-nomenological psychology and ecological approach to cognitive science"**

The aim of my presentation is to present those elements of Ervin Straus psychological conception of sensual experience which are important for contemporary Cognitive Sciences with emphasis on enactive-ecological approach. Straus in his 1935 work called *Vom Sinn der Sinne. Ein Beitrag zur Grundlegung der Psychologie* describe sensual experience as a total method to communicate with the world in a way which is sympathetic, and therefore harmonious. The experience is total because it involves communication between the subject as a whole and the world which is always diverse, but also constitutes a certain whole. It is sympathetic because it is a component in the process of the subject’s becoming — becoming together with the world of experience. He argues that in gestalt psychology, Pavlov’s behaviourism and even in Husserlian phenomenology there are many common elements, i.e. atomism and sensualism which are inherited from Cartesianism and British Empiricism. He criticizes those approaches because they treat perception is static and artificial way. I will show which elements of Straus thought has an important influence on some contemporary studies of cognition. I claim that this influence wasn’t recognize but Straus ideas interact on enactive-ecological approach through e.g. philosophy of Merleau-Ponty.

**Matthew Gladden (Anglia Ruskin University; Polish Academy of Sciences) - "Cognition of the Virtual: An Ingardenian Systems-Phenomenological Account of the Perception and Understanding of Virtual Objects"**

As immersive, interactive virtual reality (VR) technologies grow increasingly sophisticated, contemporary philosophers like Rabanus have attempted to formulate phenomenological analyses of the experiences they offer. We would argue, though, that one of the richest phenomenological approaches for interpreting the virtual objects perceived and understood through the use of VR systems was pioneered in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by Roman Ingarden, who in “O dziele architektury” hypothesized the future development of what would now be described as “VR systems” and explored our potential cognition of virtual objects. An Ingardenian approach can incorporate: (1) Ingarden’s analysis of the stratification of artistic products, which distinguishes different types of cognitive access afforded to the physical fundament and intentional artistic, aesthetic, and cultural objects associated with a virtual object, and (2) Ingarden’s account (grounded in systems theory) of the human being as an emergent whole comprising a physical body, sensory-emotional “soul,” and intentional «I». This framework enables us to: (1) distinguish cognition of virtual objects from that of “real” objects, dreams, hallucinations, and the fictional worlds experienced when reading novels, and (2) explain the cognitive shift that occurs when someone immersed in a virtual environment comes to “forget” that the objects encountered there are “only” virtual.

### **Katarzyna Olewińska (Opole University) - "A reflection of childhood in the adulthood in relation to the impact of postmemory and traumatic events on the basis of William Faulkner's selected works"**

In *Light in August* William Faulkner wrote: "Memory believes before knowing remembers. Believes longer than recollects, longer than knowing ever wonders." This passage provides a clear explanation of the importance of memory in human life which is the starting point to my analysis of William Faulkner and Toni Morrison's selected works in relation to the trauma of children who, even after reaching their adulthoods, are not capable of casting the traumatic memories out of their minds. The main objective of the thesis is to analyse works of the authors mentioned above in relation to the ways in which children perceive the surrounding world and trauma which retains throughout their lives. Another aim of the thesis is to make an analysis of the language used by children who experienced traumatic events and the way they deal with constantly present memories.

### **Ryszard Tuora (University of Warsaw) - "Intelligence and The Problem of Cognitive Architecture"**

Intelligence served as one of the main talking points of the 20th century psychology, however the discussion surrounding it was largely ignored by the philosophical community. At the beginning of 20th century, when anti-psychologism in logic and epistemology was gaining the status of orthodoxy, psychologists were trying to establish tools allowing the measurement of "general cognitive ability", an internal, psychological property, which purportedly allowed one some richer insight into his environment. Following some folk-psychological intuitions, a robust set of statistical data and measuring tools related to intelligence was obtained, but sadly very little work was done in trying to elaborate cognitive-psychological explanations of these results. This talk is aimed at examining the relationship between this way of thinking about mind as intelligent, and the broadest questions of cognitive psychology: those of cognitive architecture. Does the idea of intelligence put any constraints on cognitive architecture? Is it the case that our best theories of cognitive architecture (especially massively modular ones) put pressure on conceiving of mind as intelligent? Could we provide some non-cognitive (e.g. externalistic) explanations of the facts which are usually invoked to postulate the existence of intelligence?

### **Halina Gašiorowska (SWPS University) - "American Homeless Bloggers as dissensual figures"**

I view American homeless bloggers writing about their experience of homelessness as dissensual figures (Rancierre). Rancierre's concepts, especially partition of the perceptible correspond with psychological research conducted by Harris and Fieske, who showed thanks to MRI that the research participants did not recognize homeless people as human beings. In the American order of the perceptible homeless people used to be invisible and mute. They are thought to be drug addicts and alcoholics, responsible for their own situation, incapable of reasonable speech. They do not belong to the perceptible. Nevertheless, social media enabled the homeless to speak for themselves. During the last economic crises homeless bloggers writing about their experience of homelessness became American media sensation. It was possible, because the homeless bloggers embodied dissensus – an aberration in the system of perceptible. Homeless bloggers as dissensual figures embody contradiction, linking signs of stigma ( sometimes their body) with signs of prestige (laptop, smartphone), status of an abject with competences of a citizen and announce the future order of perceptible and aesthetic community in which street people using the internet will be ordinary human beings. In my presentation I would like to address several aspects of homeless bloggers' struggle for recognition, such as: visibility and vulnerability, individualism and collective work, recognition and redistribution.

### **Xiaodan Grace Feng (KU Leuven) - "Constructing a Goldstein's Reading of 'Absolutism of Reality' : Cognition, Myth, Anxiety and Fear"**

Hans Blumenberg's theoretical connection with Kurt Goldstein is thought-provoking to be acknowledged, both their turning towards "bodily capacity" emphasizes the human demand aspect in individuals' knowledge attainment, though with one (Blumenberg) focusing on the anthropological significance on human myth making and interpretation of modernity through this aspect, and one (Goldstein) in constructing the concept of "sphere of immediacy" to bridge the three of human nature, incomprehensive words and scientific practices. The connection between the authors have been noted by Wayne Hudson and Peter Woelert at an initial stage, where I develop from the initial idea, into a close and thorough analysis. This essay aims to mainly address the following questions: locating the phenomenon of cognition of "fear" in both theory constructions, and to examine the different roles the authors claim that "fear" pertains as to the individual organism, and to examine the methodological and genealogical significance of the two accounts in terms of history of ideas. Through the re-constructing of Goldstein's reading of Blumenberg's conceptualization of "absolutism of reality" under his developmental point of view, this essay will also point out some common confusion or seeming contradiction lie in Goldstein's writings, and attempt to explain the underlying cause of that.

### **Marinko Les (University of Zagreb) - "Engaging consciousness studies in theorizing acting: an interdisciplinary approach"**

Here we propose some possibilities of engaging consciousness studies in theorizing acting. In order to re-think the understanding of the nature of actor's work – we suggest an interdisciplinary dialogue between cognitive sciences, performance philosophy and “embodied aesthetics” that echoes phenomenological tradition while at the same time staying open to recent research in neuroscience and philosophy of cognition. Is actor's experience while acting, alteration of self-consciousness or alteration in the representational relationship between consciousness and the world? Schechner (2013) introduces Csikszentmihalyi's term "flow" indicating the state of involvement in an activity where nothing else seems to matter. Scheffele (2001) suggests that actors report that during acting their conscious experience is altered and that many of them are drawn to acting by their desire for this experience of heightened awareness. On the other hand, Revonsuo et al (2009) argue that traditional definition of Altered State of Consciousness defined as a changed overall pattern of conscious experience, fail to draw line between altered and normal states of consciousness. They outline a new definition: the alteration that has happened is not an alteration of consciousness (or subjective experience) *per se*, but an alteration in the informational or representational relationship between consciousness and the world.

### **Tommaso Ostillio & Michal Bukat (University of Warsaw / Kozminski University) - "The Problem with The Trolley Problem"**

This paper sides with those authors who propose that the Trolley Problem (TP) cannot be solved with arguments, but calls for empirical investigation. The reason why side with the latter claim is that arguments seem to decontextualize TP from human impulsivity in stressful situation. In other words, we believe that it cannot be easily argued that there exists an argument or a moral theory that fits all possible cases TP applies to. In order to prove our claim, we take great inspiration from the existing empirical investigations of TP in the literature. In particular, our paper sides with those who claim that cognitive biases might spoil moral evaluations of TP. Hence, we provide an empirical investigation of the fact that the moral evaluation is susceptible to at least two cognitive biases: the framing effect and loss aversion. Furthermore, we show that also perspectives affect the way TP is evaluated. Eventually, we show also that similar problems apply to other philosophical issues, which follow from other variations of the double effect doctrine. More specifically, we show that the Knobe Effect is not immune to similar problems. For biases such as heuristic availability and narrow framing affect judgements.

### **Eliseu Raphael Venturi (Federal University of Paraná) - "Cognitive Science on Juridical Reasoning"**

This proposal focuses in cognitive science on juridical reasoning, widening, in integration, the scope of interpretive and enunciative range beyond the fields of Legal Hermeneutics and Theories of Legal Argumentation. In specific, the complex juridical linguistic process (normativity process) is problematized on multiple philosophic and scientific cognitive dimensions. 1. Linguistics, with emphasis in Semantics and Pragmatics social language dimensions. 2. Artificial Intelligence, both as a source of linguistic production and as a technical means involved in human linguistic processes. 3. Neuroscience, due to the involvement of mental and cerebral processes in text proceedings. 4. Anthropology, considered the anthropic aspect of social realization and phenomenon interactions that produce normativity from comprehension, evaluation, valuation, judgment and enunciation through linguistic games. In this sense, the research's problem is specified around the relations between means and forms of reasoning and normative results that are produced in complex decisions. The main hypothesis is that, due to the complex information processing involved in Law's interpretation and argumentation, the system of rules that engenders means, and the meaning, in their interactions, are deeply interconnected and they decisively and substantially influence the hermeneutical final result (the “norm” itself). In this context, heuristics can be a great contribute, corrected by legal techniques in an hermeneutical circle movement of interaction.

### **Witold Wachowski (University of Warsaw; IPhS PAS) - "Andrzej Lewicki: Towards Cognitive Ecology"**

General theoretical framework of Andrzej Lewicki's works and some of his discoveries and theses seem to be extremely close to the assumptions of so-called cognitive ecology, a contemporary perspective that is also rooted in the past, especially in early research in ecological psychology. This outstanding representative of psychology at the Lvov-Warsaw School studied human cognitive processes, understood as an element of man's adaptation to his social environment. Lewicki treated the cognitive processes of animals or humans as a mechanism that controls their behavior. He replaced "understanding" by the term "orientation in the environment". This orientation consists of the orientation in value and the orientation in action that are possible thanks to indications of value and indication pointing to action that are present in the environment. In his opinion, we should consider a man in a relationship not in some abstract space, but in his own environment, here and now. It is interesting how Lewicki (1960) coped with challenges which are taken today in the context of contemporary cognitive sciences.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

**Sofia Miguens** is a Professor at the Department of Philosophy of the University of Porto and a researcher, and research group leader, at the Institute of Philosophy of the same university. She is author of seven books and editor of several others. She has published numerous articles, review articles and book chapters in Portuguese, English and French on topics in philosophy of mind and language; epistemology and cognitive science; moral and political philosophy and history of 20th century philosophy in its diverse traditions. She is the Founder and Principal Investigator of MLAG (Mind, Language and Action Group). More: [avant.edu.pl/en/sofia-miguens](http://avant.edu.pl/en/sofia-miguens)

**Michał Piekarski** – Ph.D., he works at the Institute of Philosophy of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw (Section Epistemology and Philosophy of Language). He is working on the problem of normativity in the context of predictive processing approach and also on the problems of philosophy of cognitive science and cognitive ecology. He published in: "Frontiers in Psychology", „Techné: Research in Philosophy and Technology”, "Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics", "Horizon. Studies in Phenomenology", "Filozofia Nauki", "Przegląd filozoficzny".

**Matthew Gladden** is interested in applying the phenomenology of Roman Ingarden and Christian Norberg-Schulz to analyze architectures of virtual reality and those processes of "technological posthumanization" by which human societies come to incorporate elements of non-human agency (e.g., in the form of social robotics and AI). He studied philosophy and management at Wabash College, Purdue University, Georgetown University, and IPI PAN and is now a graduate student at Anglia Ruskin University. He has taught philosophy at Purdue University, served as Associate Director of the Woodstock Theological Center, and worked as Administrative Officer of Georgetown University's Department of Psychology.

**Katarzyna Olewińska** is a PhD student of English Language and Literature at the University of Philology in Opole, Poland. In a field of my interests there are the concepts of time by Henri Bergson or Martin Heidegger, memory, postmemory and the ways adults deal with traumatic events from their childhood. I am interested in those topics in relation to William Faulkner's selected novels.

**Ryszard Tuora** – a student of philosophy, and cognitive science. His interests lie on the intersection of philosophy of mind, philosophy of psychology and artificial intelligence.

**Halina Gąsiorowska** is a Ph.D. candidate at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities, interested sociocultural perspectives on identity; her dissertation concerns American homeless bloggers' struggle for recognition.

**Xiaodan (Grace) Feng** completed her first master's degree in philosophy at the KU Leuven, and is currently pursuing a second master's degree in anthropology, her research interests are contemporary cultural heritage consumption and philosophical anthropology theories. She published her work of translation in Chinese of Hume's Inquiry and Treatise (selection) this year.

**Marinko Les** – 2008 - graduated from Academy of dramatic art in Zagreb, Acting department worked in almost all theaters in Zagreb, several croatian theaters and abroad, several films, a lot television. Although not very young by age (1977), but very young in scientific world... :) 2013 - joined Doctoral studies at Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb. Doctoral thesis "Possibilities of applying new neuroscientific knowledge in the analysis of acting"; awaiting defense of a dissertation.

**Tommaso Ostilio** is currently a doctoral student of Philosophy (University of Warsaw) and of Finance (Kozminski University). He holds a bachelor's degree in Philosophy and a master of science in Strategic Management. His main research interests are: cognitive psychology, behavioural economics, experimental economics, experimental philosophy and philosophy of economics.

**Michał Bukat** is currently pursuing his PhD studies in finance at Kozminski University. He is a holder of MSc double degree diploma in International Business earned from the University of Economics, Prague and Jean Moulin University in Lyon, with bachelor's degree obtained at the University of Warsaw. His main area of interest is within the fields of behavioral economics, psychology, philosophy and relates to research on labour markets and investment decisions.

**Eliseu Raphael Venturi** – Ph.D student and master in Human Rights and Democracy at the Federal University of Paraná. Specialist in Public Law by the Federal Judicial School in Paraná.

**Witold Wachowski** – a philosopher of cognitive science. Doctoral studies at the University of Warsaw. He is pursuing a research project entitled "Interactions in distributed cognitive systems and methodological individualism" at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Polish Academy of Sciences.