

We invite you to participate in the Workshop:



DIGGING INTO BLOGGING

On the role of science blogging
(and other tools for electronic communication, and interaction)
in the development of academic thought

10th November 2013, Toruń, Poland

When thinking with hands, eyes and things, we become immersed in the world, which thereby turns into an interactive store of information, a space for solving cognitive problems. This means that the world and our bodies can be regarded as crucial components of cognitive machinery.

When thinking within a community, we can create collective, supra-individual cognitive systems. And it is not easy to identify the essence of such supra-individual machinery. In the world of academia, we have large teams of lab researchers and theorists, on the one hand, and a collective system of evaluation and dissemination of knowledge through institutionalized forms of publishing, on the other.

And now it seems that there is yet another important cognitive system in the academia: the science blog. By looking at science blogs, we see that an author's contribution may be just the beginning of what really matters: it provides an impulse generating a cascade of comments spreading throughout the Internet. A post constitutes a kind of input for a distributed network that evaluates and reformulates the initial proposition and disseminates the result. This kind of information is sometimes seen and manipulated not by dozens or hundreds, but by thousands of hands and eyes...

It also turns out that blogs can be a place for solving scientific problems (cf. the mathematician William Timothy Gowers, who used his blog as a platform for the project of massively collaborative mathematics), and a source of legitimate criticism of published research – blogs can even divide the world of academics and science journalists (cf. *Science vs. Nature*)¹.

What, then, are the goals of our workshop? First of all, we are going to try to identify the role science blogging has played in science so far and to reflect on what else it can offer. We will also examine the controversies that surround blogging in the academia, and we may even be able to discuss the reliability of science and address the question of how to enhance it. In addition, we will talk about social media, such as Twitter and Facebook.

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more information – soon

¹ Special thanks to Emanuel Kulczycki for the inspiration and examples.