

Variety in Cognitive Science: An Introduction

Avant is a periodical which for over six years has looked at the field of cognitive science from both its center and the fringes. We have almost always focused not on the authors but on the topics we wanted to cover. The topic determined the selection of contributors, with particular focus on those who pursue the most interesting research.

This time we have acted differently. As we are able to provide an international forum to present research results, we decided to use this opportunity and invite only Polish authors (specializing in cognitive science in its wider meaning) to participate in this issue of *Avant*. We have invited those whose work has so far appeared to us the most interesting, and who touch upon matters most interesting to us.

One distinctive feature of cognitive science is its multi-disciplinarity and interdisciplinarity. We present to you work touching on issues of virtual reality, perception of time, dynamic concepts in human development studies, computational semiotics, as well as the unification and integration of cognitive science itself. Thus, this volume contains both multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research on a single topic, as well as works touching upon a variety of topics which show the relationship between individual disciplines and opportunities for integration.

Despite its evident dynamic development and a broad spectrum of academic interests, the roots of Polish cognitive science go back only to the 1990s¹ and only now is it beginning to participate in international research. This is exemplified by the increasingly numerous research teams such as *Action and Cognition Lab* headed by Grzegorz Króliczak, *c-lab* by Michał Wierzchoń, *Perception & Cognition Lab* by Piotr Francuz, *Baby Lab* by Przemysław Tomalski and others in Warsaw, Lublin, Kraków, Toruń, Szczecin and Poznań. Polish scholars are honing their skills abroad (besides Grzegorz Króliczak and Joanna Rączaszek-Leonardi, we should also mention young researchers such as

¹ In 1998 the first issue of the periodical *Kognitywistyka i Media w Edukacji* [Cognitive Science and Media in Education] was published and the Polish Society for Cognitive Science was established in 2001. International cognitive science dates back to the 1970s.

Ryszard Auksztulewicz, Paweł Matusz, Marta Łukomska, Krzysztof Gorgolewski, Krzysztof Dołęga, Marcin Leszczyński), therefore we are convinced that the best years of Polish cognitive science are still ahead of us².

On the one hand we are very satisfied with the texts we have received for this volume. We are grateful to those authors who trust our journal and have devoted their efforts to preparing articles presenting their current research. On the other hand, we are less satisfied because not all of the planned texts—for a variety of reasons—could be published. This volume does not include all the contributors invited, as not everyone was able to respond. I hope that in the future we will be able to present the results of their research in the pages of *Avant*.

What is more, this selection should not be considered a presentation of the best Polish cognitivists. In Poland there are many very talented scholars who, for various reasons, we did not invite (e.g., Mateusz Hohol, Mariusz Urbański, Joanna Trzebińska, Paweł Gładziejewski, Marta Łukowska, Andrzej Kapusta, Piotr Przybysz and Łukasz Przybylski). Some were not included because they had already published their research in *Avant*, while sometimes it was the topic that influenced us. Also, when selecting contributors, we wanted to focus on relatively young scholars. As mentioned already, we hope that there will still be a chance to publish the work of those not included in this volume.

Przemysław Nowakowski

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² It must be mentioned that the achievements of the often young scholars listed here are impressive.