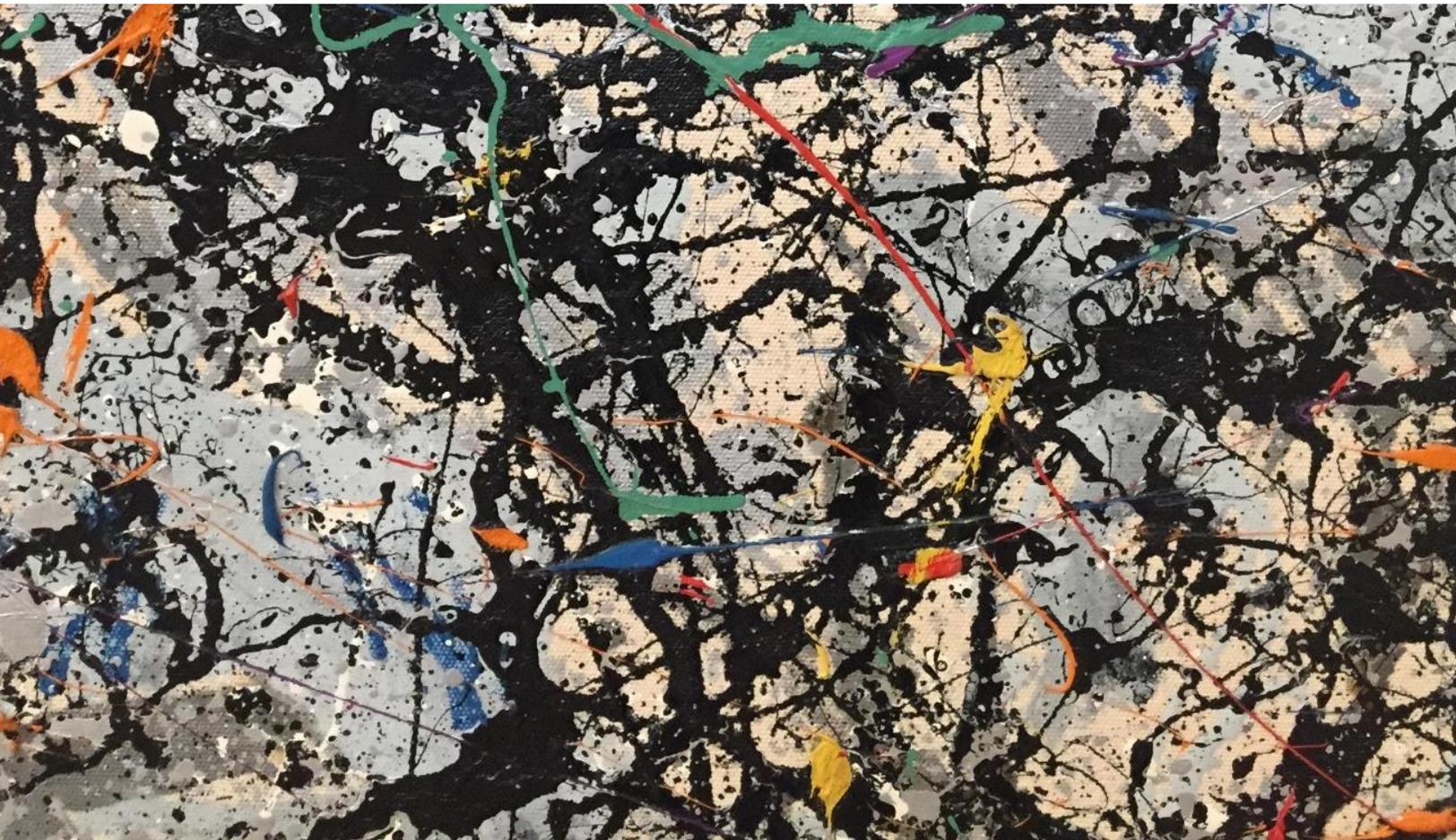




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Research Platform
Cognitive Science

CogSci Symposium
“Action, Perception, and Prediction”



CogSci Symposium “Action, Perception, and Prediction”

cogsci.univie.ac.at/symposium | facebook.com/events/817945545003505

Organization committee:

Univ.-Prof. Ulrich Ansorge

Univ.-Prof. Thomas Bugnyar

Univ.-Prof. Helmut Leder

Petra Pesak, MSc

Ao. Univ.-Prof. Franz-Markus Peschl

Ass.-Prof. Michael Schmitz

Cornell Schreiber, MSc

Contact person:

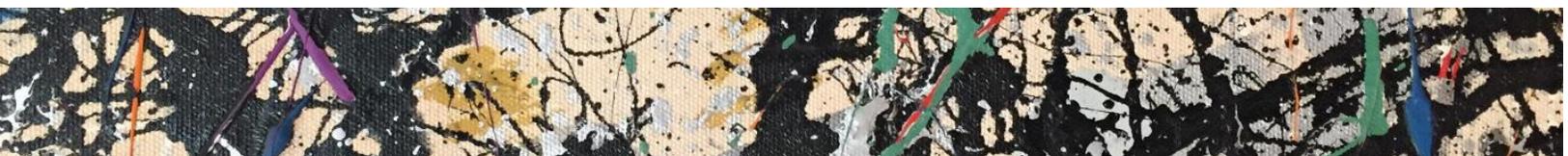
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Host organization:

Research Platform Cognitive Science, University of Vienna, Universitätsstraße 7, A-1010 Vienna

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Program

Friday, November 18, 2016

9:00am - 9:30am | WELCOME

9:30am - 11:30am | KEYNOTE A (MODERATOR: HELMUT LEDER)



Anthony Little
Department of Psychology, University of Bath

"Evolution and the social perception of faces"

COMMENTARIES



Katrin Schaefer
*Department of Anthropology,
University of Vienna*



Bernard Wallner
*Department of Anthropology,
University of Vienna*

11:30am - 1:30pm | LUNCH BREAK

1:30pm - 3:30pm | KEYNOTE B (MODERATOR: CLAUS LAMM)



Patrick Haggard
Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London

"Awareness of action: prediction or reconstruction"

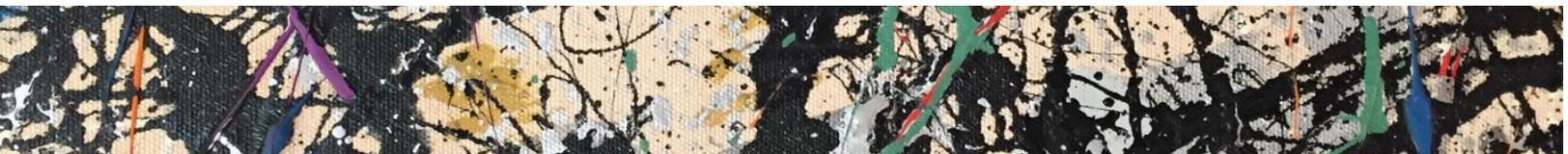
COMMENTARIES



Ulrich Ansorge
*Department of Basic
Psychological Research and
Research Methods, University of
Vienna*



Michael Schmitz
*Department of Philosophy,
University of Vienna*



3:30pm – 4:00pm | COFFEE BREAK

4:00pm – 6:00pm | KEYNOTE C (MODERATOR: GIORGIA SILANI)



Chris Frith
*Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging, University College London;
Institute of Philosophy, School of Advanced Studies, University of London*

"Action, Agency & Responsibility"

COMMENTARIES

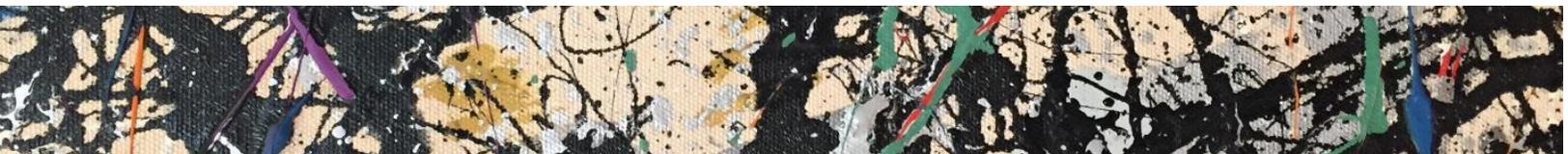


Line Ryberg Ingerslev
*Department of Philosophy,
University of Vienna*



Claus Lamm
*Department of Basic
Psychological Research and
Research Methods, University of
Vienna*

6:00pm – 6:30pm | CLOSING



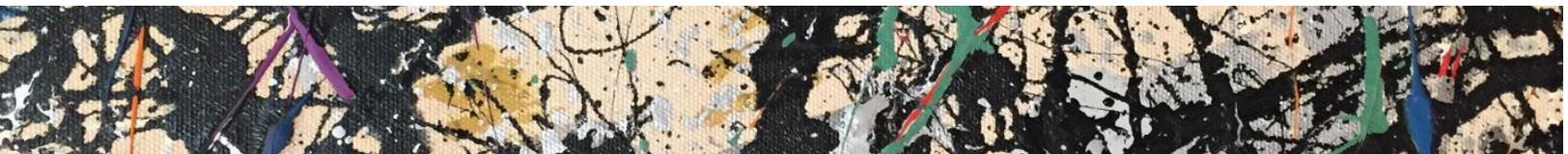
Location

The [main building](#) of the University of Vienna is located close to Schottentor (one of Vienna's central transit points):

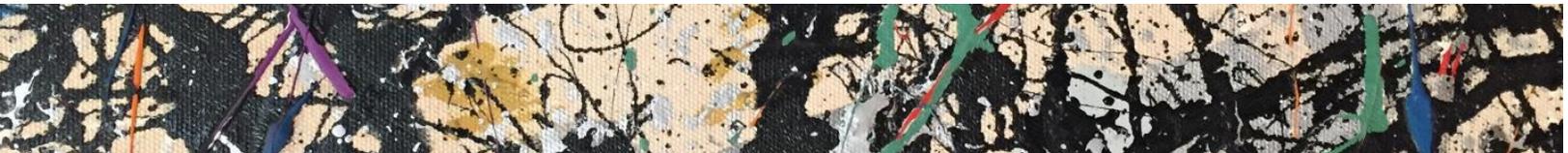


Inside the main building the [access route](#) to the venue of the symposium (Small Ceremonial Chamber) will be signposted.

Within the city public transport, tickets can be used for all transport facilities (buses, tramways, and subways). For further information please see the [website](#) of Wiener Linien.



Talks



November 18, 2016 | 9:30am – 11:30 am

Anthony Little

Department of Psychology, University of Bath, UK

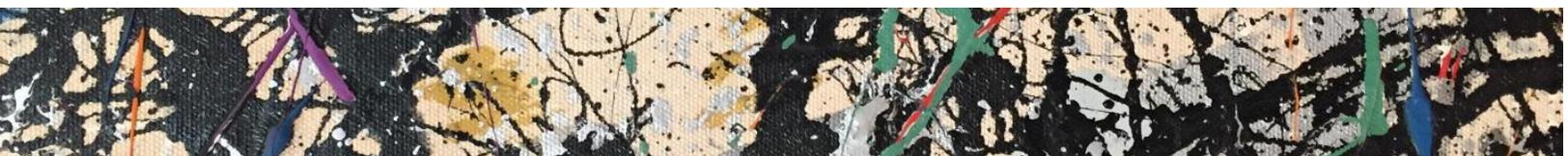
Evolution and the social perception of faces

About the talk

An evolutionary approach highlights that selection pressures will have shaped social perception to be functional. Behavior is extremely complex and so it is unlikely that observers will always behave adaptively but an evolutionary view strongly predicts that social perception should favor adaptive responses. In this talk I will discuss examples from face perception of accurate social judgement and potentially adaptive choices. One key arena for adaptation lies in variation: in preferences, for example, our individual perception of who is attractive appears to be influenced by the condition of the body we inhabit, our partnership status, our reproductive status, and the environment we find ourselves. In all of these domains preference can be said to vary in ways that are to the benefit of the perceiver. Preferences can also be seen to be influenced by simple exposure and via social learning, mechanisms which are also proposed to be adaptive in adjusting behavior to fit the current environment. Overall, these studies highlight sophisticated and flexible mechanisms for generating variation in face preferences, mechanisms that are sensitive to: Internal biological factors, environment, experience, and other people's opinions and choices. Understanding the relevant selection pressures on human social choices can reveal why certain cues are so important in faces and illuminate why people vary in their social perception.

About the speaker

Dr Anthony Little is a Reader in Psychology at the University of Bath in England. He became interested in face perception as an undergraduate student at Durham University, completed an MSc at the University of Stirling, and a PhD at the University of St Andrews. He has lectured at the University of Liverpool and the University of Stirling where he also held a Royal Society University Research Fellowship from 2005-2013 before moving to the University of Bath in 2016. Since he began publishing in 2001, Dr Little has authored 182 academic articles and 11 book chapters, including articles in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, and Psychological Science. His research focuses on how faces are perceived and processed, the information people extract from faces, and why certain faces are found attractive from an evolutionary perspective.



November 18, 2016 | 1:30pm – 3:30 pm

Patrick Haggard

Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London, UK

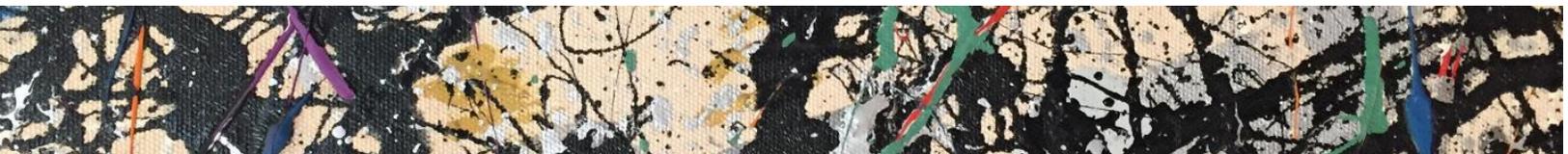
Awareness of action: prediction or reconstruction

About the talk

We feel we decide for ourselves what to do. We also feel that our decisions and intentions lead to our physical actions. Indeed, our culture and society seem to be built upon a concept of individuals as autonomous, conscious, responsible agents. However, neuroscience has often struggled with the idea of voluntary action. One key problem for mechanistic accounts of volition arises in trying to define the origin of voluntary actions in the brain. Second, few neuroscientific accounts have captured the "sense of agency" that characteristically accompanies human goal-directed action. I will report recent experimental work tackling both of these problems. I hope to show that intentional action is a neural mechanism in the human brain, and that it can be studied experimentally.

About the speaker

Patrick Haggard leads the ["Action and Body" research group](#) at the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London.



November 18, 2016 | 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Chris Frith

*Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging, University College London;
Institute of Philosophy, School of Advanced Studies, University of London*

Action, Agency & Responsibility

About the talk

We have very little awareness of the details and causes of our actions. We are, however, vividly aware of being in control of our actions and this gives us a sense of responsibility. These feelings arise, first, from intentional binding which creates a perception of agency, linking an intentional action to its outcome and, second, from the counterfactual reasoning that we could have chosen some other action. These feelings of responsibility play a critical role in creating social cohesion since they allow people to be held to account for deliberate antisocial behaviour. Because we are unaware of how little we know about our actions we are happy to make up stories about the nature and causes of our behaviour. These stories often do not correspond with the underlying cognitive and neural processes, but they can be changed through instructions and through discussion with others. Our experience of responsibility for action emerges during our upbringing through exposure to our culture. This creates consensus about the causes of behaviour, but not necessarily accuracy.

About the speaker

Chris Frith is Emeritus Professor of Neuropsychology at the Wellcome Centre for Neuroimaging at University College London and Honorary Research Fellow at the Institute of Philosophy, London University. Since completing his PhD in 1969 he was funded by the Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust to study the relationship between the mind and the brain. He is a pioneer in the application of brain imaging to the study of mental processes. He has contributed more than 500 papers to scientific journals and is known especially for his work on agency, social cognition, and understanding the minds of people with mental disorders such as schizophrenia. For this work he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2000 and a Fellow of the British Academy in 2008. He was Niels Bohr Visiting Professor in the Interacting Minds project at Aarhus University in Denmark from 2007-11 and a Fellow of All Souls College Oxford from 2011-2013. He has been awarded honorary degrees by the University of Salzburg and the University of York. He has published several books, including *The Cognitive Neuropsychology of Schizophrenia* (Psychology Press, 1992, classic edition 2015) and *Making up the Mind: How the Brain Creates our Mental World* (Wiley-Blackwell 2007). In 2009 he was awarded the Strömngren medal for work on Schizophrenia, the European Latsis Prize (Jointly with U Frith) for work on 'Human mind, Human brain' and the International Prize from the Fysen Foundation for work on Neuropsychology. In 2014 he was awarded the Jean Nicod Prize (jointly with Uta Frith) for philosophical oriented work in cognitive science.

