

On May 24 and 25 2019 the Interdepartmental Research Centre NewHums – Neurocognitive and Humanities Studies organises the sixth NeuroHumanities Dialogue with the title *Beauty and Embodiment in the Arts*. The aim of this year Dialogue is to investigate the bound between a work of art and our physical perception of it. Over the last years the NewHums Research Centre has been promoting a prolific interdisciplinary discussion (in the form of yearly NHS Dialogues) between different international research groups on several topics, such as Neuroaesthetics, Metaphors, Cognition and Imagination. The aim has always been to define possible and new approaches to the study of the literary text and the work of art which could involve both humanities and sciences. This year dialogue will focus on the analysis of the aesthetic perception of the work of art, of its subjective and objective qualities, and the concept of beauty as the primordial element in the relationship between man and artistic creation. If we look at the dynamics between the percipient subject and the perceived object, internal world and external one, human being and art, it is evident that the bridge among these different entities is corporeity. The interconnection of biological existence, knowledge and perception is the starting point of *embodied cognition*, the current scientific theory that stands as the epistemological foundation of the deep interweaving between humanities and cognitive sciences. This theory considers knowledge as something embodied, related both to the mind and the body, and also the embodiment as the existential condition of the subject. The physiological and biological reality of the human body is then the premise for every form of consciousness, thought, expression, intersubjectivity, social interaction and at the same time for aesthetic experience.

Organizing Committee

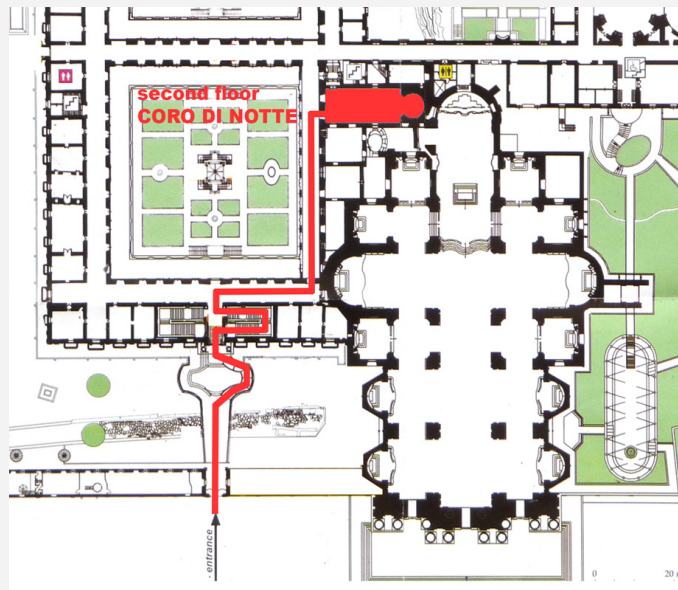
Grazia Pulvirenti, Renata Gambino,
Giovanni Gallo, Daniela Giordano

Organizing Secretary

Federica Abramo, Elisabetta Vinci

Staff

Paolo G. Caponetto, Elisa Percolla,
Roberta Signorelli



Sixth NeuroHumanities Dialogue 2019
Beauty and Embodiment in the Arts

24th - 25th May 2019

**Catania, Monastero dei Benedettini,
Teatro Machiavelli**



24th May

Coro di Notte, Monastero dei Benedettini

9.30 – 9.45 Opening and welcome
Rector Magnificus Francesco Basile
Head of the Department of Humanities
Marina Paino
Head of the NewHums Research Centre and
of the NeuroHumanities Network
Renata Gambino, Grazia Pulvirenti

CHAIR Renata Gambino, Grazia Pulvirenti

9.45 – 10.30 **Semir Zeki**
Stabilizing the World through Ambiguity

10.30 – 11.00 Discussion

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 12.00 **Nicola Laneri**
*Embodiment of the Divine
in the Ancient Near East*

12.00 – 12.45 **Pier Luigi Sacco**
*Aesthetic Regimes and Public Humanities:
a Neuro-foundation for the New European
Agenda for Culture*

12.45 - 13.15 Discussion

13.15 - 15.00 Lunch

CHAIR Nicola Laneri

15.00 – 15.45 **Vittorio Gallese**
*Embodied Simulation and its Role
in Aesthetic Experience*

15.45 – 16.15 Discussion

16.15 – 16.45 Coffee Break

16.45 – 17.15 **Pierre-Louis Patoine**
*Joycean Text / Empathic Reader:
A Modest Contribution to Literary
Neuroaesthetics*

17.15 – 17.45 **Sara Uboldi**
*Metamorphosis, Deixis and Embodiment
A Case Study: Tomasi di Lampedusa's Final
Masterpiece* Lighea

17.45 – 18.15 **Benito Eliás García-Valero**
*The Challenges of Embodying Japanese
Aesthetics*

18.15 – 18.45 Discussion

20.30 Aperitivo & Concert at Teatro
Machiavelli

25th May

Coro di Notte, Monastero dei Benedettini

CHAIR Pierre-Louis Patoine

9.30 – 10.15 **Monika Fludernik**
The Sublime as Embodied Aesthetic

10.15 – 10.45 Discussion

10.45 – 11.15 Coffee Break

11.15 – 11.45 **Jan Söffner**
*The Bodily Meaning of Narrative.
Why Language Processing is such
a Hard Task for AI*

11.45 – 12.15 **Fausto Caruana**
*The Double Life of Facial Expressions,
from Emotional Displays to Communicative
Gestures*

12.15 - 12.45 **Stefano Ballerio**
*"Passion": Embodiment, Interpretation,
and the Language of Emotions*

12.45 - 13.30 Discussion

13.30 - 15.00 Lunch at the Monastero dei Benedettini

25th May

Teatro Machiavelli

CHAIR Arthur Jacobs

15.00 – 15.30 **Pascal Nicklas & Emine Gurbutz**
*Emotional Contagion in Reading Fiction:
Insights from Physiological Response*

15.30 – 16.00 **Jana Lüttke**
*Fast Story-Fast Mind: Embodiment Effects
in Reading Speed*

16.00 – 18.00 Final Roundtable directed by Arthur Jacobs

20.00 Social Dinner

The NeuroHumanities Dialogue is organized by

NewHums Research Centre – Neurocognitive &
Humanities Studies

www.neurohumanitiestudies.eu

University of Catania

www.unict.it

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Department of Mathematics and Computer Sciences

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Neurohumanities Network

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