



UNIVERSITÀ
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NewHums Research Center
University of Catania
www.neurohumanitiestudies.eu



**NewHums Research Centre – Neurocognitive and Humanities Studies
International NeuroHumanities Studies Network
Lamberto Puggelli Foundation
University of Catania**

**Third NeuroHumanities Dialogue
Ars et Ingenium: The Processes of Imagination**

26 - 28 May 2016
CATANIA - Italy

Following the first NeuroHumanities Dialogue focused on “Neuroaesthetics and Cognitive Poetics” (2014) and the second on “Metaphors as source of creative thought” (2015), the NewHums Research Centre of the University of Catania is pleased to announce the Third Dialogue between neuroscientists and humanists.

The event will take place at the Aula Magna of the Main Building of the University (Palazzo del Rettorato) and at the Benedictine Monastery in Catania.

The topic of the 2016 Dialogue is: **Ars et Ingenium: The Processes of Imagination**

Keynote speakers are (in alphabetic order):

Arthur M. Jacobs, Professor of Experimental and Neurocognitive Psychology at the Freie Universität Berlin

Deborah Jenson, Professor of Romance Studies at the Duke University and Director of Duke’s Franklin Humanities Institute

Helmut Leder, Professor of Cognitive Psychology and Head of the Department of Basic Psychological Research and Research Methods at the University of Vienna

Gabrielle Starr, Professor of English and Dean of the College of Arts and Science at the New York University

Mark Turner, Professor of Cognitive Science at Case Western Reserve University

Semir Zeki, Professor of Neurobiology at the University College London

The peculiarity of the meeting relies on its format: a real dialogue between scientists and human scholars with plenty of time for discussion and a final roundtable with respondents.

Main focus of this year Dialogue is the investigation of the imagination. This topic has been philosophically and scientifically studied with different, contradictory and partial results. It has also been meta-critically reflected upon in art and poetry. Art can be considered as a creative human process of experiencing, understanding and communicating reality through images, symbols and metaphors, i. e. through Imagination. Art and literature often become a favoured way to reflect meta-critically upon the “imaginative processes” of imagination as a complex multimodal and emergent phenomenon implying cognitive and emotional activations.

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**Centro Interdipartimentale di Studi Neurocognitivi e Umanistici
Dipartimento di Scienze Umanistiche
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Relevant questions of the recent discussion about imagination will be focus of the Third NeuroHumanities Dialogue in Catania, such as: why is imagination such an important factor in human experience? Why is human thinking based on imaginative processes, even if it is not so apparently? Why is art in general, and literature in particular, generated through imagination and generates imagination? And last, but not least, how can imagination be measured and improved?

PROGRAMME

26 May 2016

Aula Magna Rettorato, Piazza Università, Catania

15.00 – 15.15 Opening and welcome

Rector Magnificus **Giacomo Pignataro**

Head of the Department DISUM **Giancarlo Magnano San Lio**

15.15 – 15.30 **Grazia Pulvirenti and Renata Gambino**

The NewHums Research Centre

Chair: Mario Zappia

15.30 – 16.30 **Semir Zeki**

Mathematical Imagination and the Uses of Beauty

16.30 – 17.00 Discussion

17.00 – 17.30 Coffee Break

17.30 – 18.30 **Mark Turner**

**Brains, Selves, Choices, and Stories: What the new Neuroscience propounds
about Blending, Simulating, and Imagining**

18.30 – 19.00 Discussion

27 May 2016

Coro di Notte – Monastero dei Benedettini, Piazza Dante 32 Catania

Chair: Giovanni Gallo

09.00 – 10.00 **Deborah Jenson**

Representations in the Brain

10.00 – 10.30 Discussion

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11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 12.30 **Arthur Jacobs**

Imagination and Immersion in reading: a neurocognitive poetics perspective

12.30 – 13.00 Discussion

13.00 – 15.00 Lunch

Chair: Daniela Giordano

15.00 – 16.00 **Helmut Leder**

Psychology of the Arts: when Perception meets Cognition

16.00 – 16.30 Discussion

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee Break

17.00 – 18.00 **Gabrielle Starr**

Top-Down Processes, Imagination, and Poetry

18.00 – 18.30 Discussion

18.30 - 19.30 **Conversation with a Writer of Science Fiction:**

Alessandro Fambrini interviewed by Andrea Binelli

20.30 CONCERT “Amato Jazz Trio” at Teatro Machiavelli

in collaboration with Associazione Musica Insieme Librino

28 May 2016

Coro di Notte – Monastero dei Benedettini, Piazza Dante 32 Catania

Chair: Renato Bernardini

9.00 – 11.00 Round Table

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 12.30 Presentation NHS – Book Series YOURS

Respondents

Alexander Bergs (University of Osnabrück), Andrea Binelli (University of Trento), Silvia Bonacchi (University of Warsaw), Lorella Bosco (University of Bari), Alessandro Fambrini (University of Pisa), Nicola Laneri (Università di Catania), Jana Lüdtkke (Freie Universität

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Berlin), Pierre-Louis Patoine (University Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3), Theresa Sylvester (Freie Universität Berlin), Hannah C. Wojciehowski (University of Texas at Austin)

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Department of Mathematics and Computer Sciences
Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences
Department of Chemical Sciences
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Team

Giovanni Gallo, Renata Gambino, Daniela Giordano, Grazia Pulvirenti, Giuseppe Spoto, Mario Zappia

Organization

Grazia Pulvirenti and Renata Gambino
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