



UNIVERSITÀ  
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di CATANIA



*Third International Neurohumanities Dialogue*  
**“Ars et Ingenium: the Processes of Imagination”**  
May 26, 27, 28, 2016

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

The NewHums Research Center – Neurocognitive and Humanities Studies of the University of Catania (Italy), the International NeuroHumanities Studies Network and the Lamberto Puggelli Foundation are proud to announce the *Third NeuroHumanities Dialogue*, “**Ars et Ingenium: the Processes of Imagination**”, which is going to take place on May 26, 27 and 28, 2016 at the Benedictine Monastery of Piazza Dante, Catania (Italy), with the participation of the most important scholars working on this topic, such as Semir Zeki and Mark Turner among many others prominent researchers.

After an inspiring and ground-breaking First NeuroHumanities Dialogue about “Neuroaesthetics and Cognitive Poetics” at the University of Catania in 2014, and a Second NeuroHumanities Dialogue on “Metaphors as source of Creative Thought” in 2015, the third edition of the Dialogue (organized by The NewHums Research Center – Neurocognitive and Humanities Studies, directed by Grazia Pulvirenti, and the International NeuroHumanities Studies Network, directed by Grazia Pulvirenti and Renata Gambino from the University of Catania), will be focused on the cognitive value and neural processes of Imagination. Art in general, and literature in particular, are a favoured object to reflect meta-critically upon the “imaginative processes” of imagination as a complex multimodal and emergent phenomenon implying cognitive and emotional activations.

Thus, this year dialogue will address relevant questions of the recent discussion about imagination, such as: its cognitive value and the concomitant neural processes; the reason why imagination is such an important factor in human experience; how imagination arises in the human, how it can be measured and improved.

Keynote speakers of the “Dialogue” 2016 are

- On afternoon May 26

**Semir Zeki**, neurobiologist and founder of Neuroaesthetics from University College of London; **Mark Turner**, cognitive scientist and founding director of the Cognitive Science Network from Case Western Reserve University

- On morning May 27

**Deborah Jenson**, humanities scholar and coordinator of the NeuroHumanities Research Group of Duke University;  
**Arthur M. Jacobs**, experimental and neurocognitive psychologist from Free University of Berlin

- On afternoon May 27

**Helmut Leder**, Head of the Department of Basic Psychological Research and Research Methods at the University of Vienna;

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

The peculiarity of the meeting relies on its format: a real dialogue between two keynote speakers each session and invited scholars from international institutions, who will join the dialogue as discussants during the conference days and the final round-table of the 28<sup>th</sup> May.

The convention is going to take place at the Palazzo del Rettorato of Piazza Università on the 26<sup>th</sup> May, and it is going to continue at the Benedictine Monastery, historic site in Catania, which today hosts the Department of Humanities (DISUM) of the University of Catania.

For further information, please visit <http://www.neurohumanitiestudies.eu/NHS2016/>

### **Promoters**

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International NeuroHumanities Studies Network

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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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