

Situated Cognition. Perceiving the World and Understanding Other Minds

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The notion of situated cognition comprises several closely related ideas that together challenge and force us to reconsider the traditional notion of cognition. While the traditional view conceives of cognition as constituted by formal operations on abstract symbols taking place in the brain, the situated approach, in contrast, conceives of cognition as an embedded and extended activity carried out by an embodied agent. On this view, cognitive activities are not confined to an individual's brain, but essentially extend into the agent's body, and even into the agent's physical and social environment. Therefore, cognition cannot be explained in terms of neural activity alone, but only in terms of the dynamics between brain/mind, body and world. The notion of situated cognition raises many conceptual issues surrounding the various roles of the brain, the body and the world. In this professorship, these issues shall be investigated and evaluated in closer detail with regard to two cognitive domains, namely (1) our perception of the outside world, and (2) our understanding of other people.

Projektbeteiligte

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Individualism vs. Interactionism about social understanding