

Situated Cognition. Perceiving the World and Understanding Other Minds (continuation)

Initiative: Lichtenberg - Professuren

Bewilligung: 05.03.2019

Laufzeit: 3 Jahre

This project aims at developing an adequate account of various cognitive capacities, in particular perception and social understanding. 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 the second phase of this Lichtenberg-project (2019-2021), the research group shall be focusing on the interpretation of brain activity and its function in its dynamical interaction with body and world. This is an important desideratum in contemporary discussions. We investigate and evaluate in closer detail the recently popular theoretical framework of predictive processing from this perspective and its implications for two cognitive domains, namely (1) our perception of the outside world, and (2) our understanding of other people. Moreover, we investigate its implications for the range of cognition in the natural world, e.g. with respect to the behavior of biological systems simpler than human beings, and what we can learn about the range and criteria of cognition.

Projektbeteiligte

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