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Author

Gluzman, Yelena

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BODY of KNOWLEDGE

Interdisciplinary Approaches to Interaction

Yelena Gluzman

Interdisciplinary efforts to bring together embodied cognition paradigms from cognitive science and artistic practice often do so by positioning the science as a source of language and frameworks which can offer explanatory power for describing arts practices of making and doing, while positioning arts practice as embodying sources of exemplary material (sites, practices, objects) for cognitive scientists to consider. This configuration of “exchange”, by casting cognitive science as source of theory for redescribing fleshy arts practice, ironically reinscribes the

theory/practice, mind/body dualisms that embodied paradigms seek to challenge. Such an approach to interdisciplinarity might risk missing, or even masking, how embodied and situated research on cognition already is -in other words, how cognitive science is also a kind of making and doing. In this panel, we seek to explore alternate configurations for interdisciplinarity between artistic and cognitive scientific practice.

Taking up the framework of experiment may provide one opportunity for such reconfiguration. Experiments are performative in a particular and orchestrated way; they are sites of interaction whose staging shapes the sorts of phenomena that become visible. While experiments are central to the way that cognitive neuroscientists approach the empirical, they are also central to a range of artistic and theatrical practices that interrogate the situated, empirical conditions of their production and reception. Experimental interventions can function as sites where divergent investigative approaches can become visible, actionable, manipulable, and theoretically viable to each other. In other words, we invite proposals for and reports of experimental situations that can materialize and entwine divergent concerns, priorities, subjects and objects. This panel welcomes papers that engage with experimental collaborations outside bifurcated configurations of interdisciplinarity between the arts and the cognitive sciences.