

The Skills of Feeling with the World - Second Workshop

Affecting Affordances of Power and Difference

Jan. 28 (Sat) & Jan. 29 (Sun)

VENUE: Ritsumeikan University, Suzaku Campus, Room 303

Access: <http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/file.jsp?id=246774&f=.pdf>

Organizers: Paul Dumouchel, Andrea De Antoni (Ritsumeikan University)

This Workshop is part of the Project "The Skills of Feeling with the World: Anthropological Research on the Senses, Affect and Materiality", based at the Institute of Humanities, Human and Social Sciences, Ritsumeikan University.

The so-called "affective turn" in the Humanities and Social Sciences, that emerged from the "ontological turn", shed light on the (inter-)subjective intensity and dynamics immanent to bodily perceptions and matter in general (e.g. Massumi 2002). Similarly, research on the senses stressed their centrality in the shaping of social practice and culture (e.g. Geurts 2002, Howes 2004), calling for a focus on perception in processes of doing ethnography (e.g. Pink 2009). Furthermore, Ingold's work (2000, 2013) pointed at the need to highlight the creative processes in social practice and anthropology in the making, as engagements and correspondences with materials and the environment, in which skills of perception and action emerge alongside with ontologies. In addition, anthropological works have also emphasized the important role matter plays in developing sensorial skills and in bearing or affording specific affects (e.g. Durham 2011, Navarro-Yashin 2012). A common thread among these studies is that they point at the need to go beyond symbols and representations, meaning making processes, cognition, or belief. In other words, they suggest new research directions to go beyond overly simplified conceptions of "culture".

On the other hand, recent research shed light on the danger of leaving cultural differences aside, by excessively focusing on concepts – such as suffering or trauma – which rely on the assumption that they transcend culture, being human universals (e.g. Robbins 2013).

This workshop aims at elaborating a theoretical framework that could fill the gaps between the aforementioned approaches. In order to do so, this time we would like to focus on the concept of "affordance" (e.g. Gibson 1979), as a way to mediate between theories that focus on pre-personal pre-subjective and pre-cognitive affects and perceptions on the one hand, and the social, cultural, as well as power relationships on the other.

PROGRAMME

DAY 1: January the 28th (Sat)

10:00-11:30 Paul Dumouchel (Ritsumeikan University)
Realism

Coffee Break

11:45-13:15 Daniel White (Hosei University)
The Affect-Emotion Gap: Anxiety, Adequacy, and Affordance in Japan's Cultural Administration

Lunch Break

14:30-16:00 James Anderson (Kyoto University)
The Emergence of Self-Recognition, and the Role of Mirrors and "Self" in Society

Coffee Break

16:15-17:45 Nicolas Tajan (Kyoto University)
From Hikikomori Trauma to Subject Formation: Illness Narrative of an Emerging Adult

Reception

DAY 2: January the 29th (Sun)

10:00-11:30 Bernhard Hadolt (The University of Vienna)
A Desire for Knowing: Ontological Uncertainty, Diagnostic Evidence and Generative Affectivity in Pre-symptomatic Genetic Counselling

Coffee Break

11:45-13:15 Kondō Hiroshi (Ritsumeikan University)
Figure of Pigs among the Embera: An Essay for Considering the Concept of Affordance as a Matter of Power

Lunch Break

14:30-16:00 Andrea De Antoni (Ritsumeikan University)
Down in a Hole: Movement, Affordances of Ghosts and Discourses on Dead Korean Labourers in Contemporary Kyotaki Tunnel (Kyoto)

Coffee Break

16:15-17:45 **Roundtable Discussion**

REGISTRATION

If you are interested in joining the Workshop, please, register by sending an email to deantoni[at]fc.ritsumei.ac.jp (please, insert @ instead of [at]) by January the 20th 2017.

We would like all the participants to take an active part in discussions, so the overall number of people taking part in the Workshop will be limited to 20.

A draft version of all the papers will be delivered in advance to all the people who registered and we kindly ask everyone to read them before joining the Workshop, so that we can have productive discussions.