

Forskarseminarium

onsdag 27 maj 2020

kl 10.15-12 via Zoom

Research Seminar

Wednesday 27 May 2020

10.15-12.00 via Zoom

Humans and robots doing thinking as an embodied practice

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When a social action is due but cannot be completed immediately, participants are accountable for the intervening time. In this presentation, we examine how participants manage this delay by doing ‘thinking’, as a multimodal practice. Using conversation analysis, we compare two settings: how board game players do thinking to manage delays in turn taking, and how a social robot does thinking to manage a necessary delay in processing when learning human facial features. We focus on sequences where a participant has started an action, but there is delay before the action is completed. Participants make sense of these delays by orienting to them as ‘mental’ activity, especially through multimodal practices such as non-lexical vocalizations and embodied motions that display incipient action. In this way, participants orient to consciousness and cognition as situated in the moments between initiating and action and the actions projectable (but not yet reached) completion. Moreover, participants treat mental processes as visible and obvious, rather than internal, private, or hidden. Studying how humans and machines visibly do “thinking”, we are contributing to embodied perspectives on cognition and a more holistic view of mind and body. This research does not only have implications for how we conceptualize humans, but also contributes to design robots that are easier to make sense of.