

MEMORY, SELF, AND COGNITIVE THEORY
COGS7040

MRes unit, Dept of Cognitive Science, S1 2020
Wednesdays 2.30-4.00 on zoom under lockdown

UPDATED SCHEDULE v5, as at MAY 13

John Sutton - john.sutton@mq.edu.au - consultation by zoom and by appointment

Unit outline

- This graduate unit explores open questions in the interdisciplinary study of human nature, agency, and memory. The dual focus is on personal memory and on shared memories, as we try to integrate experimental evidence with attention to remembering in everyday life. We critically discuss research in neuroscience and psychology through to philosophy and the social sciences, as well as examples from the arts. We approach 'self' by thinking of agency as relational or porous, looking especially at intersubjective interaction in couples and other small groups. Our angle on cognitive theory is firmly 'embodied' and 'distributed', as we aim to pin down clear and empirically productive forms of the extended cognition thesis. We build the layers up across three core sections of the unit, studying first memory in its own right, then current views on distributed and extended cognition, and then putting them together in a section on remembering together. The unit concludes by applying the ideas discussed to the case of dementia.

- This unit is open to MRes Year 1 students in any discipline. Those who are taking the unit for credit towards their MRes will complete the required assessment tasks (see below). Other participants are also very welcome, especially MRes Year 2 students, PhD students, and other interested researchers.

Unit Outline

Introduction: week 1 (Weds Feb 26) Intro: central and subsidiary themes

Part 1 (weeks 2-4) Beyond memory: how history animates dynamical systems like us

Week 2	March 4	Human memory is variable, open, interactive, dynamic
Week 3	March 11	We learn to remember: development, culture, training
Week 4	April 1 [lockdown!]	Porous memories: emotion, interaction, and shared history

Part 2 (weeks 5-7) Distributed cognitive ecologies

Week 5	April 8	Exograms and the cognitive life of things
Week 6	April 15	Socially distributed cognition
Week 7	April 22	Interaction and vulnerability: towards a critical cognitive theory

Part 3 (weeks 8-10) Remembering together

Week 8	April 29	Cognitive interdependence and collaborative recall
Week 9	May 6	How to share a memory
Week 10	May 13	Remembering in the wild

Part 4 (weeks 11-12) Otto in the wild

Week 11	May 20	Dementia and distributed cognition
Week 12	May 27	Embodied agency and cognitive reserve

Summary, revision, conclusion, party: week 13 (June 3)

Assessment - MRes Year 1 students taking the unit for credit will complete the following assessment tasks.

1. Attendance and participation		10%
Attend at least 10 of the 13 classes, complete the basic readings, and participate appropriately in class discussions.		
2. Critical argument summary	end week 4	15%
3. Class presentation and research summary	by end week 7	30% (15% each component)
4. Essay plan	May 25 (start week 12)	5%
5. Essay	June 15	40%

MEMORY, SELF, AND COGNITIVE THEORY
COGS7040

S1 2020 - Wednesdays 2.30-4.00 on zoom under lockdown (final version, May 13)

Provisional schedule and reading list

Introduction: week 1 (Weds Feb 26) Intro: central and subsidiary themes

- If you can, please watch or re-watch Christopher Nolan's film *Memento* [2001] before class: it's on Amazon Prime.
- If you have seen *Memento* before, or after watching it for the first time, read
 - Sutton, John (2009). 'The feel of the world': exograms, habits, and the confusion of types of memory. In Andrew Kania (Ed.), *Memento: philosophers on film* (pp.65-86). London: Routledge. Available at: https://johnsuttondotnet.files.wordpress.com/2017/01/sutton_memento-the-feel-of-the-world.pdf

Part 1 (weeks 2-4) Beyond memory: how history animates dynamical systems like us

Week 2 March 4 Human memory is variable, open, interactive, dynamic

- Addis, Donna Rose (2018). Are episodic memories special? On the sameness of remembered and imagined event simulation. *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, 48 (2-3), 64-88.
- Campbell, John (1997). The structure of time in autobiographical memory. *European Journal of Philosophy*, 5 (2), 105-118.
- Jablonka, Eva (2017). Collective narratives, false memories, and the origins of autobiographical memory. *Biology & Philosophy*, 32 (6), 839-853.
- Mahr, Johannes B. & Csibra, Gergely (2020). Witnessing, remembering, and testifying: why the past is special for human beings. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*.

Week 3 March 11 We learn to remember: development, culture, training

- Nelson, Katherine & Fivush, Robyn (2020). The development of autobiographical memory, autobiographical narratives, and autobiographical consciousness. *Psychological reports*, 123 (1), 71-96.
- Wang, Qi (2019). Culture in the organization of autobiographical memory. In J. Mace (ed), *The Organization and Structure of Autobiographical Memory* (pp.72-92), Oxford UP.
- Reese, Elaine, Macfarlane, L., McAnally, H., Robertson, S. J., & Taumoepeau, M. (2020). Coaching in maternal reminiscing with preschoolers leads to elaborative and coherent personal narratives in early adolescence. *Journal of experimental child psychology*, 189.

Week 4 April 1 Porous memories: emotion, interaction, and shared history

- Brown, Steven D. & Reavey, Paula (2015). Turning around on experience: the 'expanded view' of memory within psychology. *Memory Studies*, 8 (2), 131-150.
- Sutton, John (2009). Remembering. In P. Robbins & M. Aydede (eds), *The Cambridge Handbook of Situated Cognition* (pp. 217-235), Cambridge University Press.
- Nairne, J. S., Pandeirada, J. N., Gregory, K. J., & Van Arsdall, J. E. (2009). Adaptive memory: Fitness relevance and the hunter-gatherer mind. *Psychological Science*, 20(6), 740-746.

Part 2 (weeks 5-7) Distributed cognitive ecologies

Week 5 April 8 Exograms and the cognitive life of things

- ** - Donald, Merlin (1990). *Origins of the Modern Mind*, excerpts in J. Olick et al (eds) *The Collective Memory Reader*, Oxford: Oxford UP, 2010, 325-333.
- * - Hutchins, Edwin (2010). Cognitive ecology. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 2 (4), 705-715.

Week 6 April 15 Socially distributed cognition

- ** Colombetti, G. & Krueger, J. 2015. Scaffoldings of the affective mind. *Philosophical Psychology* 28 (8), 1157-1176.
- * Tollefsen, Deborah (2006). From extended mind to collective mind. *Cognitive Systems Research* 7 (2-3), 140-150.
- Krueger, Joel (2014). Affordances and the musically extended mind. *Frontiers in Psychology*.
- De Jaegher, Hanne, Peräkylä, A., & Stevanovic, M. (2016). The co-creation of meaningful action: bridging enaction and interactional sociology. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 371 (1693).
- Clark, Andy (2005). Beyond the flesh: some lessons from a mole cricket. *Artificial Life* 11 (1-2), 233-244.
- Bickle, John (2008). The molecules of social recognition memory: implications for social cognition, extended mind, and neuroethics. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 17(2), 468-474.

Week 7 April 22 Interaction and vulnerability: towards a critical cognitive theory

- ** - Slaby, Jan (2016). Mind invasion: situated affectivity and the corporate life hack. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 7, 266.
- * - Harcourt, Edward (2016). Moral emotion, autonomy & the extended mind. *Phenomenology & Mind* 11, 100-112.
- Campbell, Sue (2008). The second voice. *Memory Studies* 1 (1), 41-48.
- Drayson, Zoe and Clark, Andy (2018). Cognitive disability and embodied, extended minds. In *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Disability*. Oxford University Press.
- Williams, James (2016) Do no harm: the extended mind model & the problem of delayed damage. *Sophia* 55, 71-82.

Part 3 (weeks 8-10) Remembering together

Week 8 April 29 Cognitive interdependence and collaborative recall

- ** - Harris, Celia B., Barnier, A. J., Sutton, J., & Keil, P. G. (2014). Couples as socially distributed cognitive systems: remembering in everyday social and material contexts. *Memory Studies* 7 (3), 285-297.
- * - Wegner, Daniel M. (1987). Transactive memory: a contemporary analysis of the group mind. In *Theories of group behavior* (pp. 185-208). Springer, New York, NY.
- Meade M.L., Nokes T.J. & Morrow D.G. (2009) Expertise promotes facilitation on a collaborative memory task. *Memory* 17, 39–48.0

Week 9 May 6 How to share a memory

- ** - Hirst, W., Yamashiro, J.K., & Coman, A. (2018). Collective memory from a psychological perspective. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 22 (5), 438-451.
- * Wagoner, Brady (2015). Collective remembering as a process of social representation. In G.Sammut et al (ed.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Social Representations*, pp.143-162. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Seemann, Axel (2019). Reminiscing together: joint experiences, epistemic groups, and sense of self. *Synthese*, 196 (12), 4813-4828.
- Blustein, Jeffrey (2019). Bridging the gap between the social science and the social ontology of collective memory. *Memory Studies*.

Week 10 May 13 Remembering in the wild

- ** Smith, Mick (2017) 'Somewhere in the North of England': a recollective ecology. *Emotions: History, Culture, Society* 1 (2017), 137-160. [NB not in Leganto – use copy in iLearn, and use this password to open the file: EHC\$201711 as in the filename].
- * Anderson, Ben (2004) Recorded music and practices of remembering. *Social & Cultural Geography* 5 (1), 3-20.
- Brown, Steven D., & Reavey, Paula (2014). Vital memories: movements in and between affect, ethics and self. *Memory Studies*, 7 (3), 328-338.
- Pickering, Michael, & Emily Keightley (2013). Communities of memory and the problem of transmission. *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, 16 (1), 115-131.
- Maguire, Geoffrey (2019). Screening the Past: reflexivity, repetition and the spectator in Lola Arias' *Minefield/Campo Minado* (2016). *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, 38 (4), 471-486.

Part 4 (weeks 11-12) Otto in the wild

Week 11 May 20 Dementia and distributed cognition

- ** - Hydén, Lars-Christer, and Mattias Forsblad (2018). Collaborative remembering in dementia: a focus on joint activities. In M. Meade et al (eds), *Collaborative Recall: theories, research, applications*, pp. 436-455. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- * - Strikwerda-Brown, Cherie, Grilli, M.D., Andrews-Hanna, J., & Irish, M. (2019). 'All is not lost' – rethinking the nature of memory and the self in dementia. *Ageing Research Reviews* 54.
- Rathbone, Clare J. et al (2019). Using memories to support the self in Alzheimer's disease. *Cortex* 121, 332-346.

Week 12 May 27 Embodied agency and cognitive reserve

- ** - Taylor, Janelle S. (2008). On recognition, caring, and dementia. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 22, 313–335.
- * - Duff, Melissa C., Gallegos, D., Cohen, N.J., & Tranel, D. (2013). Learning in Alzheimer's disease is facilitated by social interaction. *Journal of Comparative Neurology*, 521 (18), 4356-4369.
- Lindemann, Hilde (2009). Holding one another (well, wrongly, clumsily) in a time of dementia. *Metaphilosophy* 40 (3-4), 416-424.

Week 13 June 3 *Summary, revision, conclusion, party*

Further Reading Lists (as before – these are all just if you're interested or looking for further info)

#1 Books (optional!)

If you're interested in buying, or even reading, a good general book on memory, there's a wide choice. I recommend:

- Fernyhough, Charles (2013). *Pieces of Light: the new science of memory*. Profile Books. This is, overall, the best single book on the psychology of memory. It is well-written, up to date, and personal.

- Baddeley, Alan, Eysenck, Michael W., & Anderson, Michael C. (2015). *Memory*. 2nd edition, Psychology Press. This is a comprehensive and detailed textbook on the psychology of memory, focussing on cognitive psychology.
- Brown, Steven D. & Reavey, Paula. 2015. *Vital Memory and Affect: living with a difficult past*. Routledge. Terrific book of theory and case studies on social, cultural, & emotional remembering, with impressive disciplinary breadth.
- Goldie, Peter (2012). *The Mess Inside: narrative, emotion, and the mind* (pp.26-55), Oxford: Oxford University Press, especially chapter 2, 'Narrative thinking about one's past'.
- Wang, Qi. 2013. *The Autobiographical Self in Time and Culture*. Oxford UP. Rich cross-cultural discussion of Western and Chinese selves and memory practices, anchored in developmental psychology.

#2 Unusual memories and their implications: SDAM & HSAM

- McRobbie, Linda Rodriguez (2017). Total recall: the people who never forget. *The Guardian*, 8 Feb.
URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2017/feb/08/total-recall-the-people-who-never-forget>
- Hayasaki, Erika (2016). In a perpetual present. *Wired*, April.
URL: <https://www.wired.com/2016/04/susie-mckinnon-autobiographical-memory-sdam/>
- Brons, Lajos (2019). Aphantasia, SDAM, and episodic memory. *Annals of the Japan Association for Philosophy of Science*, 28, 9-32.
- Palombo, Daniela J., Sheldon, S., & Levine, B. (2018). Individual differences in autobiographical memory. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 22 (7), 583-597.
- Watkins, Nicholas W. (2018). (A)phantasia and severely deficient autobiographical memory: scientific and personal perspectives. *Cortex*, 105, 41-52.

#3 More on the development of autobiographical memory

- Miller, Peggy J., Potts, R., Fung, H., Hoogstra, L., & Mintz, J. (1990). Narrative practices and the social construction of self in childhood. *American Ethnologist*, 17 (2), 292-311.
- Miller, Peggy J., Chen, E.C.H., & Olivarez, M. (2014). Narrative making and remaking in the early years: prelude to the personal narrative. *New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development* 145, 15-27.
- Nelson, Katherine (2003). Self and social functions: individual autobiographical memory and collective narrative. *Memory*, 11 (2), 125-136.
- Salmon, Karen & Reese, Elaine (2016). The benefits of reminiscing with young children. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 25 (4), 233-238.

#4 Amnesia

- De Brigard, Felipe (2014). The anatomy of amnesia. *Scientific American Mind*, 40-43.
- Hoerl, Christoph (1999). Memory, amnesia and the past. *Mind & Language* 14 (2), 227-251.
- Craver, Carl F. (2012). A preliminary case for amnesic selves: toward a clinical moral psychology. *Social Cognition* 30 (4), 449-473.