

## Seminars in Situated Cognition

When: Wednesday, August 24, 11.00-12.30

Where: GNOSIS Research Centre, Aarhus University  
Tuborgvej 164, Room C 020  
2400 Copenhagen, Denmark

What: Talk by Mattia Gallotti

Title: The Meeting of Minds in the We-Mode

### Abstract:

Over the last twenty years, the theory of collective intentionality has contributed important insights into many forms of human sociality, like cooperation and communication. The root idea is that whenever people intend to do something together, they see their actions as being directed at the same goal. And for a goal to be shared, people must be able to think of individuals, both themselves and the others, as a group (i.e. as a 'we'). In this paper I shall discuss some of the virtues, as well as limits, of framing the question of collective intentionality as a problem of experimental philosophy. Collective intentionality theory is particularly interesting in this respect: initially it grew out of philosophers' intuitions about group thinking, thus exemplifying the paradigmatic approach of traditional research programs in the philosophy of social science that answers philosophical questions on aprioristic grounds. More recently, it has attracted the attention of experimental scientists, who have forward a rich experimental literature on the proximal and ultimate bases of collective intentional behaviour. I shall make a start by illustrating one exemplary account in philosophy, then I'll move on to discuss how influential theories in psychology (Tomasello) and neuroscience (Frith) have the potential to meet some central philosophical puzzles about collective intentionality.

All are welcome.

Coffee and cake will be provided.