

CALL FOR PAPERS: Special Issue of *Spatial Cognition and Computation*

Unusual Bodies, Uncommon Behaviors: Embodied Cognition and Individual Differences in Spatial Tasks

Expected publication date: early 2012

Editors: Martin H. Fischer and Madeleine Keehner, University of Dundee, Scotland UK

Contacts: M.H.Fischer@Dundee.ac.uk and M.M.Keehner@Dundee.ac.uk

The influential embodiment view of human cognition postulates that our knowledge and thinking are constrained by sensory and motor processes. It predicts that similarities in the configurations and actions of our bodies should generate similar mental representations of space and movement across individuals, and that differences in the use of our bodies will impose different cognitive behaviors. This special issue will consider the naturally occurring variance in embodied spatial processes among typical individuals as well as in populations with atypical bodies or experiences.

The aim of this special issue is to highlight research on embodied processes in spatial tasks, with a focus on *differences* in these processes, rather than generalities. Submitted manuscripts should report empirical work that addresses questions such as: Do *all* individuals use embodied processes in similar ways in spatial tasks? Do individuals with *atypical bodies or atypical experiences* show *typical* or *atypical* patterns of embodied representations? By bringing together findings on questions such as these, we hope to shed light on the nature of the relationship between mind and body in spatial cognition.

Our goal is to constrain theories of embodied cognition and consider implications for embodied processes in representations of space. By drawing on evidence from non-typical cases and the naturally occurring variance in typical individuals, we hope to address questions such as:

- whether embodied processes in spatial cognition are automatic or obligatory
- whether they can be strategically or flexibly applied
- whether there is a strict, one-to-one mapping between the physical body and mental representations of the body and its action space

Answering these questions will help us understand how human spatial cognition is constrained by embodiment. The central interest is inter- and intra-individual differences, and what they can teach us about embodiment in spatial cognition. In considering submissions, the notion of differences will be construed quite broadly, including, but not limited to, issues such as:

- How individuals differ in spontaneous engagement of embodied processes in spatial tasks
- Differences in subjective experience or vividness of embodied representations
- Strategic or flexible deployment of embodied representations in spatial tasks
- What atypical bodies or experiences can tell us about embodied spatial processes
- Neural underpinnings of differences in embodiment
- The role of experience in shaping individual differences in embodiment

- Developmental differences in embodied processes in spatial cognition
- Embodied processes within different spatial frames of reference

Relevant dates are as follows:

Submission of papers	by 1 st March 2011
Review and return of papers	by 1 June 2011
Final copy to be received	by 1 August 2011

For submission guidance please refer to the journal's home page at:

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/13875868.asp>. Note that all submissions must be uploaded via the Manuscript Central system: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/hspcc>. For any general queries about the special issue, please contact the guest editors, Martin Fischer and Madeleine Keehner.

Due to constraints on page numbers, we request that you limit your submission to 10,000 words (that is the total, including references and abstract). Please reduce this value further (by 350 words) for each Figure and Table in your manuscript.

All submissions will be thoroughly peer-reviewed in accordance with the journal's high standards. The special issue guest editors will make recommendations for acceptance, based on the reviews received. Final decisions about acceptance will be made by the handling Editor in Chief. We plan to assign three international expert reviewers to each manuscript upon receipt. Please nominate three suitable reviewers in your cover letter—although note that we may or may not contact these—along with some justification or explanation of your reviewer recommendations. Finally, as part of your contribution to the Special Issue, you should make yourself available to perform one review for us if requested to do so.