

# X-SPECT Second Newsletter

## Recent Talks

David Carmel gave two public engagement talks last week:

- *Zapping the Brain to Mess with the Mind*, 17 May (19:30-21:30) Pint of Science, City Café, Edinburgh
- *Absence/Presence*, Panel Discussion with Anneli Holmstrom, 20 May (19:00-21:00) Summerhall, Edinburgh

## Forthcoming Talks

Andy Clark will present at the international conference, *Feeling Reasons: The Role of Emotions in Reasoning* (May 25-26):

- *Happily Entangled: Emotions, Cognition, and the Predictive Mind* (based upon joint work with Mark Miller), May 25, (13:45)

Sam Wilkinson will present at a workshop on *Belief, Self-Knowledge and Transparency*, in Oviedo, Spain (June 7-8):

- *How to Make a Self-Knowing Mind*, June 7, (15:00)

## Forthcoming Events

The first project workshop, entitled *Expecting Ourselves: Prediction, Action, and the Embodied Mind*, will be held on November 10, 2017 in the Informatics Forum at the University of Edinburgh.

Confirmed speakers include: Karl Friston, Sarah Garfinkel, Lucia Melloni, Anil Seth.

Full programme with more speakers to follow shortly.

The workshop will feature some invited speakers and a poster session for contributed work. The workshop directly follows the *Designed Minds* meeting (November 8-9) to be held at the same location. The two workshops are independent (and each will have its own registration process) but they will tackle many common themes.

The X-Spect workshop is free and open to all, but places are limited and participants will need to register in advance. Details will be on [our website](#) and sent out on this mailing list as things develop.

## Other activities

Next week (May 30) Andy Clark will be pre-recording materials for the PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) series *Closer to Truth*. The show is broadcast weekly on over 200 PBS stations in the U.S. and Canada, and boasts a great website that features philosophers and scientists exploring fundamental questions:

[www.closetotruth.com](http://www.closetotruth.com)

Topics to be covered include predictive processing, consciousness, and the extended mind.

Network member Anil Seth has engaged in some very cool outreach: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/broadcast/read/40168>

Network member Karl Friston has written this ambitious and exciting article for Aeon: <https://aeon.co/essays/consciousness-is-not-a-thing-but-a-process-of-inference>

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## Hot Off the Press

(A selection of relevant papers that have appeared very recently)

Weilhammer, V., Stuke, H., Hesselmann, G., Sterzer, P., Schmack, K.  
[A predictive coding account of bistable perception - a model-based fMRI study.](#)  
PLoS Comput Biol. 2017 May 15

Li, X., Zhang, Y., Xia, J., Swaab, T.Y.  
[Internal Mechanisms underlying Anticipatory Language Processing: Evidence from Event-Related-Potentials and Neural Oscillations.](#)  
Neuropsychologia. 2017 May 15

Barrett, L.F., [The theory of constructed emotion: an active inference account of interoception and categorization.](#) Soc Cogn Affect Neurosci. 2017 May 2

Shah, P., Catmur, C., Bird, G., [From heart to mind: Linking interoception, emotion, and theory of mind.](#)  
Cortex. 2017 Apr 28

Kiefer, A., Hohwy, J., [Content and misrepresentation in hierarchical generative models.](#) *Synthese*. Special issue on Predictive Brains. M. Kirchhoff (ed.) (forthcoming)

## Upcoming Job

Part-time (50%) one-year RA post on our project

Starting Date – Around October 1st 2017.  
Salary – Between £12,00 and £13,800

We expect (subject to local approvals) soon to be posting an ad seeking a part-time (50%) RA for 12 months, to help with the empirical wing of this project. The project is funded by the European Research Council and led by Professor Andy Clark. The empirical wing is led by Dr David Carmel.

This project includes experiments involving eye-tracking, transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), fear conditioning, and measurement of skin conductance responses. The RA will programme such experiments, prepare other experimental materials, help with recruiting and testing participants, and assist with data analysis. Strong programming skills essential.

Register interest by sending a CV and covering letter to Dr David Carmel - [dave.carmel@ed.ac.uk](mailto:dave.carmel@ed.ac.uk) - copy to Andy Clark ([andy.clark@ed.ac.uk](mailto:andy.clark@ed.ac.uk)) and to [expectingourselves@gmail.com](mailto:expectingourselves@gmail.com).