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## X-SPECT Seventh Newsletter

### Recent events

Recordings of the talks given at The Predictive Engines Workshop held at Macquarie University last December are now available for interested parties.

This workshop sought to explore the philosophical and empirical consequences of the predictive processing (PP) framework for how we should understand the structure and function of the brain, cognitive processes, pathologies, and even consciousness. The event brought together Jakob Hohwy and Andy Clark to debate whether PP is an internalist or externalist project.

Other speakers included: Regina Fabry, David Kaplan, Philip Gerrans, Dan Hutto, Michael Kirchhoff, Richard Menary, Ken Cheng, Colin Wastell, and Colin Klein.

Link: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEoGPGHiNWRwbqqKdE\\_PrOtiV7ewXp0S](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEoGPGHiNWRwbqqKdE_PrOtiV7ewXp0S)

Andy Clark had a feature written on him for the New Yorker: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/04/02/the-mind-expanding-ideas-of-andy-clark>

Andy was also interviewed in this: <https://spectrumnews.org/features/deep-dive/autism-may-stem-problems-prediction/>

He was also involved in this debate at NYU:

# Does Hierarchical Predictive Coding Explain Perception?

A Debate



**Andy Clark** (Edinburgh)

**David Heeger** (NYU)

**Lucia Melloni** (Max Planck, NYU)

**Michael Rescorla** (UCLA)

**Tuesday May 8, 2018**

**5 - 7 p.m.**

**Cantor Film Center**

**Room 101**

**36 E 8th St**

**NYU**

Part of a series of debates on foundational issues in the mind-brain sciences  
sponsored by the NYU Center for Mind, Brain and Consciousness

[consciousness.as.nyu.edu](http://consciousness.as.nyu.edu)

Inquiries to: [consciousness@nyu.edu](mailto:consciousness@nyu.edu)

Andy also has the following recent and upcoming publications:

Clark, A. (in press) "A Nice Surprise? Predictive Processing and the Active Pursuit of Novelty" *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*

Clark, A. (in press) "Beyond the 'Bayesian Blur': Probabilistic Brains and the Nature of Subjective Experience" *Journal of Consciousness Studies*

Linson, A., Clark, A., Ramamoorthy, S. & Friston, K. (2018) The Active Inference Approach to Ecological Perception: General Information Dynamics for Natural and Artificial Embodied Cognition, *Frontiers in Robotics and AI*

Sam Wilkinson gave a talk to the Dynamic Syntax Conference (April 17/18), on “Predicting Worlds and Words” (based on work with Andy Clark).

<https://sites.google.com/site/seconddsconf/programme>

He responded at the Models of Mind workshop (April 20) to a paper entitled “A Tactical Puzzle: The Free Energy Approach to Sensorimotor Enactivism” by María Jimena Clavel Vázquez (St Andrews/Stirling)

<https://modelsofthemind.wordpress.com/programme/>

Sam also has the following upcoming publication:

Wilkinson, S. (in press). Hearing Soundless Voices. *Philosophy, Psychiatry and Psychology*

David Carmel has the following recent publications:

Rabagliati, H., Robertson, A., & Carmel, D. (2018). The importance of awareness for understanding language. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 147(2), 190.

Walsh, A. T., Carmel, D., Harper, D., & Grimshaw, G. M. (2018). Motivation enhances control of positive and negative emotional distractions. *Psychonomic bulletin & review*, 1-7.

Denham, S. L., Farkas, D., van Ee, R., Taranu, M., Kocsis, Z., Wimmer, M., Carmel, D., & Winkler, I. (2018). Similar but separate systems underlie perceptual bistability in vision and audition. *Scientific Reports (Nature Publisher Group)*, 8, 1-10.

Frank Schumann spoke at the Human Cognitive Neuroscience seminar in Edinburgh, March 29<sup>th</sup> on “A predictive processing account of sensory augmentation”.

He also has the following recent publication:

Torrance, S. and Schumann, F. (2018) 'The spur of the moment: what jazz improvisation tells cognitive science', *AI & Society*

Kate Nave gave the presentation "Perceptual determinacy in the Probabilistic Brain" to the Edinburgh Work in Progress (WIP) group, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Forthcoming Events**

Our second workshop is pencilled in for Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 2018, at the Informatics Forum in Edinburgh - Save the date!

The project will also be very well represented at ASSC 22, in Krakow, 26-29<sup>th</sup> June:

- Andy Clark will be part of a symposium: "Psychiatry as a Window to Consciousness" (alongside Roy Salomon, Paul Fletcher & Philip Corlett)
- David Carmel will present the poster: "Different emotional expressions do not gain differential access to consciousness." (co-authors: Lanfranco and Rabagliati)
- Frank Schumann will present the poster: "Can prediction errors (not) be substituted? Contingency-mimetic sensory augmentation and a predictive coding account of sensory substitution and augmentation."
- Kate Nave will present the poster: "Perceptual determinacy in the Probabilistic Brain"
- George Deane will present the poster: "Consciousness as Top-down Global Revision"

George will also present this as a talk at the International Workshop on Predictive Processing, San Sebastian, June 20-22.