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MICHELA C. TACCA

MAIN RESEARCH AREAS

Neurophilosophy, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Perception, Cognitive Science

OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST

Epistemology, Philosophy of Language, British Empiricism

CAREER

2009 - Postdoctoral fellow, project: 'Neuroframes' (B2; DFG-FOR 600), University of Düsseldorf, Germany (head of the project: Prof. Gerhard Schurz)

EDUCATION

07/2008 Ph.D. Cognitive Science, University of Siena, Italy. Thesis: Looking at Vision from a Different Point of View: Compositionality and Systematicity of Visual Feature Binding (advisors: Profs. Sandro Nannini and Marco Gori)

07/2004 M.A. Philosophy (*cum laude*), University of Siena

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

09/2006-212/007 Visiting Student at the Department of Philosophy and the Center for Cognitive Science, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, USA (advisor: Prof. Brian P. McLaughlin)

10/2005-06/2006 Visiting Student at the Institute of Neurophysiology and Pathophysiology, UKE Hamburg, Germany (advisor: Prof. Andreas K. Engel)

AWARDS AND HONORS

01/2010-04/2010 Fellowship 'Art & Neuroscience', The Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America at Columbia University (value: \$20,000) - Declined.

10/2009 VG Wort publishing grant for the book 'Seeing objects: The structure of visual representation' (value: Euro 6,500)

06/2009 Dissertation Prize, Premio CODISCO – awarded by the Italian Association of the Ph.D. Programs in Cognitive Science

06/2008 Cognitive Science Society Prize, honorable mention ex aequo, awarded for paper presentation "Visual feature binding: structure of constituents and systematicity" presented at ESPP 2008

2005 – 2007 Ph.D. studentship, Volkswagen Foundation 'Representation: Theories, Forms, and Techniques' (AZ II/80 609)

09/2001 – 02/2002 Erasmus Scholarship for studies at the University of Granada, Spain (value: Lit. 2,000; Euro 1,032.91)

PUBLICATIONS

- Authored Book** Tacca, M.C. (2010). *Seeing objects: The structure of visual representation*. Paderborn: Mentis.
- Articles** Tacca, M.C. (submitted). Structure of Constituents and Systematicity of Vision.
- Book chapters** Tacca, M.C. (forthcoming). The Perceptual Basis of Systematic Representations. In T. Gamerschlag, D. Gerland, R. Osswald, & W. Petersen (eds.) *Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on Concept Types and Frames in Language Cognition and Science (CTF09)*.
- Tacca, M.C. (2010). Intentionality and Structure of Visual Representations. In A. Falzone (ed.), *Languages of Cognitive Sciences* (pp. 114-140). Reti, Saperi, Linguaggi, 3: Special Issue.
- Book reviews** Tacca, M.C. (2009). Review of Perceptual Experience edited by Gendler and Hawthorne. *Philosophical Psychology*, 22: 519-523.
- Abstracts** Tacca, M.C. (2010). Does the Structure of Thought Mirror the Structure of Vision? (abstract) In J. Haack, H. Wiese, A. Abraham, and C. Chiarcos (eds.) *Proceedings of KogWis 2010: 10th Biannual Meeting of the German Society for Cognitive Science* (p. 230). Potsdam: Universitätsverlag Potsdam.

TEACHING

- Graduate/Advanced Seminars** Topics in Philosophy of Neuroscience, University of Düsseldorf (planned 2011)
- Theory of Mental Content, University of Düsseldorf (2010/11)
- Perception and Cognition, University of Düsseldorf (2010)

TALKS

- Invited**
- 18/11/2010 Is the content of perceptual experience nonconceptual? Ruhr University Bochum, Germany
- 29/10/2010 The (semi) modularity and content of perception. *The Modularity of Mind: Revisions and Prospects*, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf
- 25/07/2009 Systematicity and Compositionality of Topographically Organized Visual Representation, *Systematicity and Compositionality*, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf
- 02/06/2009 A Frame-Based Analysis of the Relation between Perception and Cognition, job talk for Junior Professor (W1) position, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf
- 06/05/2009 Systematicity and Compositionality of Vision, Department of Philosophy,

Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf

- 06/01/2009 Looking at Vision from a Different Point of View: Compositionality and Systematicity of Visual Feature Binding, Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behavior, Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands
- 18/12/2008 Looking at Vision from a Different Point of View: Compositionality and Systematicity of Visual Feature Binding, Institute of Cognitive Science, University of Osnabrück, Germany
- 01/02/2008 The structure of vision: Systematicity of visual feature binding, *Cognitive Science Symposium*, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, USA
- 20/12/2006 A structural comparison between language and visual object perception, *Representation and Action in Human Beings and Machines*, University of Siena
- 29/06/2006 How to explain the compositionality of mental states, *2nd Workshop on Representations: Neurobiological Basis of Cognitive Representation*, UKE Hamburg

Peer-reviewed

- 15/12/2010 Does structure matter for content? *SILFS 2010*, University of Bergamo, Italy
- 04/10/2010 Does the structure of thought mirror the structure of vision? Poster presentation, *KogWis 2010*, University of Potsdam, Germany
- 22/01/2010 Reference, Demonstrative Thoughts, and Visual Binding. *VAF IV*, University of Leuven, Belgium
- 26/08/2009 Reference, Demonstrative Thoughts, and Visual Binding. *CTF09*, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf
- 28/06/2008 Visual feature binding: structure of constituents and systematicity, *16th Conference of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
- 04/12/2006 Looking at vision from a different perspective: Compositionality and visual perception (in Italian), *La Giovane Filosofia Italiana*, University of Reggio Emilia, Italy

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- Journal referee** Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences, Philosophical Psychology
- Conference/ Workshop organizing** The Theory Ladenness of Experience, March 10-11, 2011, University of Düsseldorf (with Gerhard Schurz and Ioannis Votsis)
- The Modularity of Mind: Revisions and Prospects, October 29-30, 2010, University of Düsseldorf (with Markus Werning and Jürgen Zielasek)
- Thinking of Events: Perspectives from Philosophy, Linguistics, and Neuroscience, July 1, 2010, Ruhr University Bochum (with Markus Werning)
- Compositionality and Systematicity, July 25, 2009, University of Düsseldorf (with Markus Werning)

Session chair 2nd Workshop on Representations: Neurobiological Basis of Cognitive Representation, June 29-30, 2006, UKE Hamburg (with Alexander Maye)

Administrative CTF09, August 24, 2009. University of Düsseldorf
Erasmus Exchange Contact Person between the Universities of Düsseldorf (Germany) and Porto (Portugal)

TRAINING

24-25/3/2011 Professional Teaching Competence for University Level (Basic Module),
(planned) University of Düsseldorf

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The European Society for Philosophy and Psychology

LANGUAGES

Italian (native speaker), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), German (intermediate), Dutch (novice)